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CREATOR, PENCILER, PLOT

BEAU SMITH

WRITER

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COLORS AND SEPERATIONS

KELL-O-GRAPHICS

LETTERS AND FILM

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JUST OUTSIDE TOKYO.
THE FORBIDDEN TEMPLE OF THE BLACK MOUNTAINS.
THIS IS GONNA BE A QUICK *BAG AND TAG* JOB, AL.
WATCH MY BACK. BE READY TO TAKE OUT THESE *MOONIES* WHEN I *CAP* GOZZA.
I GOT A *BAD* FEELING ABOUT THIS, HANN. WE OUGHT TO HAVE BACK UP.
WHAT *DOES* GOZZA LOOK LIKE ANYWAY? THE OFFICE HAD *NO FILE PHOTOS* ON HIM.
I DON'T KNOW, AL.
JUST LOOK FOR AN EGO WEARIN' A CROWN, A CAPE OR SOMETHIN'.
YOU SURE GOZZA IS HERE, DUSTIN?
OH, YEAH, AL. HE'S HERE.
SATELLITE REPORTS PINPOINT HIS BUTT RIGHT HERE IN THE LAND OF BAD KUNG FU.
WELCOME TO JAPAN, GENTLEMAN.
WHOOOSH!
YYEEEOWW!
YYIIIIIII!

UHH... THOSE FREAKIN' FLAMES!
IT MUST BE GOZZA.
UHH... I DON'T THINK SO.
NOT UNLESS HE'S IN GRADE SCHOOL, WEARING PAJAMAS AND SOME FUNNY LOOKIN' SLIPPERS.
I FIND YOUR ATTEMPTS TO DISRESPECT MY ATTIRE VERY AMUSING.
AND OH YES, I AM...
GOZZA!
OK, KID--NOW I'M THROUGH PLAYING ROMPER ROOM...
NOW RUN ALONG AND FETCH THE REAL DEAL...
BEFORE I DECIDE TO SPANK YA.
SSSSSSSSTTT!
I FIND YOUR TONE BARBARIC AND WITHOUT PROPER RESPECT.
I SHALL TEACH YOU RESPECT.

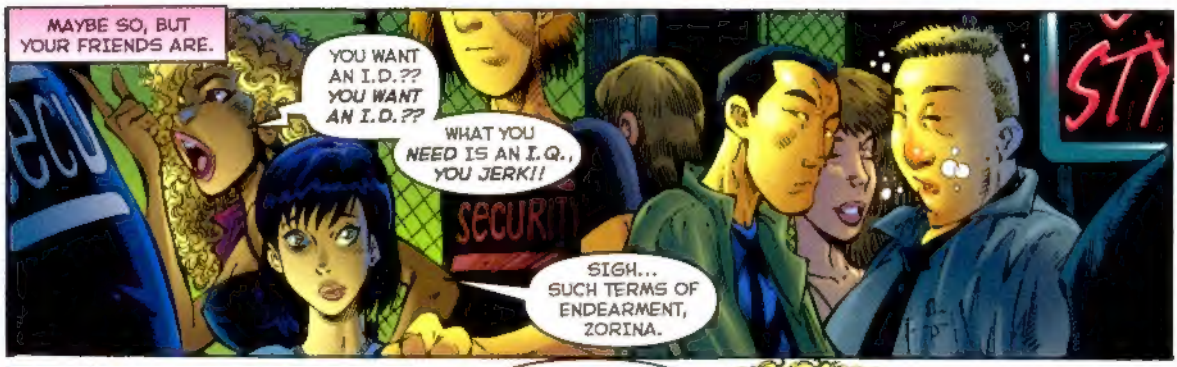
THE NORTHSIDE OF CHICAGO.
LINCOLN PARK
AS DARK FALLS THE PREDATORS OF NIGHT BEGIN TO RISE.
I HATE THIS KINDA PLACE.
IT'S GOING ON THREE HOURS. WHERE THE HELL ARE THEY?
IT'S A SIMPLE GRAB N' GO JOB. IF I DON'T GET SOME BLOOD SOON I'M GOING TO BE FORCED TO MAKE A WITHDRAW FROM A LOW-BROW BLOOD BANK.

BLOOD.
THAT IMMORTAL MADMAN, *RHAZES DARKK* THRIVES ON THE BLOOD OF OTHERS. HE TWISTS AND MELDS IT WITH DNA TO BRING THE DARKNESS OF THE SOUL TO THE TOP.
LOOKING TO SUPPRESS THE LIGHT INTO AN INESCAPABLE PRISON.
I HAVE FELT THAT DARKNESS. DEVOURED IT. KNOWN IT'S WARM BLACK EMBRACE. I WAS TO BE HIS *DARK LEADER*. I WAS TO LEAD THE *ARMY OF DARKNESS*.
HER WORLD.
WHEN THROUGH THE ABYSS OF NIGHT CAME A FLICKER OF LIGHT.
A LIGHT THAT WOULD DRAW ME OUT OF DARKK'S COMPOUND OF PAIN AND BACK INTO THE WORLD.

RACKED WITH PAIN I KNEW THEY WOULD COME AFTER ME. A CHOSEN FEW OF THE *NINE MONSTERS* BEFORE ME WOULD BE SENT.
SOME I HAD KNOWN AND HAD FOUGHT IN THE PAST.
OTHERS REMAIN UNKNOWN AND AWAIT *FUTURE* CONFRONTATION.
ALL THE WHILE I AM FORCED INTO A PARASITIC LIFE-STYLE. FEEDING OFF THE BLOOD OF OTHERS. ALWAYS TAKING.
UNTIL ESPERANZA.
SHE SAW MY PAIN. SHE GAVE ME MY LIFE. MY SANITY.
...SHE GAVE ME *HER BLOOD.*

MY YEARS TRAINED AS THE GOVERNMENT'S MOST ELITE AGENT ALSO REMINDED ME THAT FOR EVERY SMALL VICTORY THERE IS A MAJOR SACRIFICE TO BE MADE.
MY COVERT PARTNER, SCIENCE AGENT-JAENA FINE, FREED ME FROM DARKK'S CONTROL. ONLY TO FIND HERSELF A CAPTIVE OF THE INHUMAN LIVING VORTEX KNOWN AS BLACKSPELL.
IN THE QUEST TO FREE JAENA, ESPERANZA'S LATENT POWERS OF TELEKINESIS BEGAN TO MATURE AT AN ALARMING RATE.
PARTLY CAUSED BY THE TRANSFUSING OF OUR BLOOD. AND PARTLY TO HER INTERNAL RAGE SEEKING AN OUTLET.
I HAVE YET TO UNDERSTAND HOW SOMEONE SO INNOCENT, SO BEAUTIFUL, CAN CONTAIN A POWER ROOTED IN RAGE.

YO, POWDER, YOU VICTOR?
HUH?? MAYBE.
NO MINORS IN HERE. DIG?
I'M NO MINOR, CHIEF.
THUMP!


MAYBE SO, BUT YOUR FRIENDS ARE.
YOU WANT AN I.D.?? YOU WANT AN I.D.??
WHAT YOU NEED IS AN I.Q., YOU JERK!!
SIGH... SUCH TERMS OF ENDEARMENT, ZORINA.

WHAT TOOK SO LONG? WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
NICE OUTFIT. LEMME GUESS ....DARKMAN PART SIX?
OH, GEE, THANKS MISS CONGENIALITY.
ZORINA, VICTOR, GEEZ, BOTH OF YOU, CHILL, OKAY?

WE GOT IT, VICTOR. IT WASN'T EXACTLY CHARLIE'S ANGELS, BUT WE GOT IT.
THAT'S ALL? THAT LITTLE BAG??
SOME GRATITUDE, COUNT CHOCKULA.
YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT WE HAD TO GO THROUGH TO GET THIS.

CHECK THIS OUT.....
AHEM!! --I'LL HANDLE THE INSTANT REPLAY, ZORINA.

AT THE LOCAL CLINIC, ZORINA USED HER "SUBTLE" CHARMS TO ADVANCE ME TO THE HEAD OF THE LINE.
OH, YES. DOCTOR TURNER CAN SEE YOUR LITTLE FRIEND ABOUT HER SORE THROAT NOW.
HMMM, SO -- WHERE'S ZORINA FROM? YOU LOOK UH BEAUTIFULLY EXOTIC ....
MY MOM'S BLACK AND MY DAD, WELL ....HE'S A LOSER.
FINALLY, THE DOCTOR CHECKED MY THROAT.
I DREW THE LINE WHEN HE WANTED ME TO TAKE OFF MY SHIRT FOR A BETTER VIEW OF MY TONSILS.
ZORINA'S SCREAM FROM THE RECEPTION AREA SAVED THE DOCTOR FROM ME AMPUTATING HIS HANDS.
AAAACCCCKKK!
DOCTOR TURNER...COME QUICK!!
AS USUAL ZORINA'S ACTING WAS A LITTLE....OVER THE TOP, BUT EFFECTIVE.
AACK-- COUGH-CAN'T--BREATHE.. YAACCK!
THROUGH THE CHAOS I MADE MY MOVE.
SHE NEEDS MOUTH TO MOUTH. MOVE OUT OF MY WAY!
LOOK OUT-- I'LL DO IT!
YAAACCGH-- HEY, WATCH THE HANDS!
I MADE MY WAY TO THE BLOOD STORAGE ROOM.
THERE WAS MORE BLOOD THAN A VAMPIRE'S WET DREAM.

FROM OUTSIDE I COULD HEAR THAT ZORINA WAS IN HIGH GEAR.
YYAAAAAGGHHHHH! AACCKKK!
ZORINA FINE-- MASTER THESPIAN.
THANK GOD, ZORINA WAS LOUD. I .UH... HAD A HARD TIME HANDLING THE PACKAGES.
REOOWW!
OOOPS!
I CAME OUT OF THE BACK OFFICE.
IT WAS TIME FOR ZORINA TO TAKE A BOW.
OOH.. ITS A MIRACLE!
THE BAD ACTING WAS FOLLOWED BY REALLY BAD LYING.
I MUST HAVE HAD "SYMPATHY" PAINS FOR MY ..... UH....EXPECTING FRIEND.
IT'S A MIRACLE.
GOTTA GO!
WE MADE A HASTY EXIT. IT WENT SMOOTH .....KINDA'.
RROOWW!
SSSSIIIHHP!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.
SEND US A BILL. LOVE YA!

SSSSCREEEEECH!
THE EL BELMONT TO NORTH AVENUE
THAT'S WHAT WE WENT THROUGH FOR YOU.
WHILE YOU SAT IN THAT COOL BAR AND DRANK WHAT? BLOODY MARYS??
ZORINA, IT'S NOT TOO LATE
IF YOU'RE QUICK YOU CAN STILL JUMP UNDER THE TRAIN
RREEOOW!
YOU TWO ARE KILLING ME.
CAN'T WE ALL JUST GET ALONG, AT LEAST UNTIL WE GET TO ZORINA AND HER MOM'S CONDO?
SHE'S RIGHT. TRUCE, ZORINA?
YEAH. TRUCE.
BESIDES...I'M FEELING KINDA WEIRD TONIGHT GUYS...
LIKE WE'RE BEING WATCHED OR SOMETHING.
DON'T WORRY,ESPY--WE'VE GOT FRANKENWOLFULA HERE FOR PROTECTION. HEE HEE!
GET IT? IT'S A JOKE, SEE?...UHH-- NEVERMIND!
SSSSSSSSSSSSSSS

TOKYO JAPAN
WHAT??!!
YOU DIDN'T KILL HIM??
THIS IS A MAJOR ERROR ON YOUR PART, HANN!!
YOU ARE CLOGGING MY ARTERIES WITH YOUR MISTAKES!!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, MR. FUJISAKI..
HE'S A KID. I THOUGHT.. I DON'T SHOOT KIDS..
..NOT ANYMORE.
HAD I KNOWN BEFORE HAND THAT HE WASN'T A BOY, BUT A..... MONSTER, I WOULD HAVE....
LOOK. HE FRIED MY PARTNER, HOLBROOK.
NOTHING LEFT OF HIM BUT ASHES.

YOU SAY GOZZA IS A CHILD?
YES... A CHILD, BUT ALSO A MONSTER.
WHAT'S WITH ALL THE NEWSPAPERS ON THE FLOOR?
WE ARE GOING TO DO SOME... REMODELING.
REMODELING??
HEY! THIS ISN'T WHAT I SIGNED UP FOR! NO KIDS. NO MONSTERS. NO FRIED PARTNERS! I DON'T NEED THIS KINDA STRESS!
THEN LET ME RELIEVE YOU OF YOUR STRESS.....
KER-CHAKK!
BLAAAAAM!
DARKK MISSING
AND YOUR SERVICES.

1510 NORTH DEARBORN.
THE CONDO OF JAENA AND ZORINA FINE.
EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF EVIDENCE ARE WE LOOKING FOR, VICTOR?
ANYTHING, ESPY.
FILES, DATA CARDS, MICRO FILM, CD'S.
REEEOW!
HMMM, NOTHING TAPED TO THE BOTTOM...
GUYS, CHECK THIS OUT.
I THINK I FOUND SOMETHING.
I'VE SEEN MOM USE THIS BEFORE. IT'S A SATELLITE SYSTEM-6. GLOBAL HOOK UP COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE. IT'S VERY COOL.
CAN YOU WORK IT, ZORINA?
OH, YEAH. JUST LIKE A MAN.
BEEP BEEP
AGENT FINE.... THIS IS DIRECTOR JAFFE. ARE YOU SAFE? WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

NO SIR. IT'S ZORINA FINE, HER DAUGHTER MOM'S BEEN CAPTURED. WE'RE TRYING TO...
YOU'RE IN IMMEDIATE DANGER. TAKE THE KEYS IN THE CASE.
THEN GO TO THE EQUIPMENT VAN IN THE GARAGE. TAKE IT AND LEAVE AS SOON AS....
KRAAAASHH!
NO.
BLAAAAM!
THAT'S IT.
LET'S GO.
THIS ISN'T GOOD, ESPY.
I KNOW, WE BETTER MOVE.
YOU GIRLS GO AND GET THE VAN. I'LL LOAD UP YOUR PERSONALS AND MEET YOU GUYS OUT FRONT.
OKAY. HURRY, VICTOR.
MEEOOWW
THIS OUGHT TO DO IT.
SSSSSSSSSSS.

WHY DO I HAVE SUCH AN AWFUL FEELING I'M FORGETTING SOMETHING?
?
HUH?
DEATH!
LASTIC

NOT LIKE THE TIME WE MADE THAT
DON'T WORRY. JUST LIKE SSSSLAUGHTER.
I'LL LIVE.
GEEZ, ZORINA. LOOK AT ALL THIS!
COOL.

THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE!
FREEZE, ALIEN SCUMBAG. WE'RE THE WOMEN IN BLACK....SLINKY DRESSES.
CHECK IT OUT. WE'RE ON RADAR!
FORGET THE *FIFTH* ELEMENT!
I'M THE *36-24-36* ELEMENT!
IS THIS A GOOD POSE?
WHOAAAA, WE'RE NOT THE ONLY THING ON RADAR.
SOMETHING BIG IS TOO!
ZORINA, *BE CAREFUL* WITH THAT THING. THIS ISN'T A TOY STORE, YOU KNOW.
WHIRRRRR...
CHANNGG!
YIIIIIIIIII!!! ESPY--!!

HUH? . ZORINA-- WHAT'S GOIN' ON?!! IT'S LIKE THE VANS EQUIPMENT IS GOIN HAYWIRE!!
UHHHH.. ZORINA! JHHH!
CLANK!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT--I'M BEING ATTACKED BY COMPUTER EQUIPMENT!!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOIN' ON?!!
RUMBLE!
UGHHH-- I CAN'T EVEN SEEM TO JSE MY TELEKINETIC POWERS ON IT!
THE VAN-- THE MACHINERY-- IT'S LIKE A TRAP!
EEEEEEEE

OHMYGOD-- WHAT ARE YOU??
RRREEOOOW!
VICTOR!!!
RRRREEEEOORRW!

ESPY!!
WHAT THE HECK IS HAPPENING DOWN THERE?!!
LOOKS LIKE TONIGHT WON'T BE THE BUSINESS AS USUAL
I'LL AT LEAST GET TO WATCH ONE MORE TONIGHT
NO!!
UHHH-- WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY POWERS?
I-UHH- CAN'T GET LOOSE.
PLEASE DON'T KILL MY DEAR ESPERANZA
Y-YOU KNOW MY NAME?..
OH YES, I CAME PREPARED. MACH LIGHTNING THAT IS TO MACH ABOUT YOU MISS DEW TOAC
HISSS, ALL YOUR LIFE YOU'VE THOUGHT YOU WERE DIFFERENT SSSO SSSAD, SSSO ALONE
THE TRUTH ISS YOU AREN'T ALONE

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, BUT I DO KNOW THAT I HAVE A VERY BIG AND DANGEROUS FRIEND....
YOU'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE WHILE YOU STILL CAN--I DON'T THINK HE'D LET YOU LIVE IF HE CAUGHT YOU HERE!
WHIIIIIIT!
AAAHHHHH!!! VICTOR!!
UUUCCKK... NO...UGHHNNOO!
WWWHARROOUUHHH!
YAAAAGHH!

DON'T HAVE ANY BODY BAGS WITH ME...
...GUESS I'LL HAVE TO SHOVE YOUR DEAD-ASS IN THESE!
TO BE CONTINUED...

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THE TENTH

ISSUE 1

TONY DANIEL

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KEN DOBBS

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EDITOR

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE...

Recent events taking place in Japan have the CIA Special OPS on a search and destroy mission. Whole villages are said to be turning into villages of blackness where the only thing certain is death. The one responsible is none other than the kid supermonster Gozza! Meanwhile,Victer (aka the Tenth), Espy, and Zorina seek out clues to the identity of Blackspell—the evil entity created by Rhazes Darkk. While searching the Chicago condo of Dr. Jaena Fine (Zorina's mother), they come across a strange telecommunications device that has a direct link-up to a mysterious man known only as Director Jaffe. It is believed that Zorina's mother was working as a covert agent to uncover the genocidical plans of the evil Rhazes Darkk. A new villain enters the game calling himself Lastic. During Lastic's assault , he throws Victer 15 stories—causing Victer rapid blood loss and triggering the metamorphosis that once again has changed him into the monster only known as ....THE TENTH!

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SECRETS AND LIES THE STORY OF MY LIFE
I'D JUST AS SOON FORGET THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED AND PEOPLE I MET IN MY DAYS OF CIA COVERT ACTIVITY.
HARD TO DO THAT WHEN YOUR PAST COMES CREEPING UP BEHIND YOU
CAPTAIN LONNIE MCGUIRE-- EX-CIA AGENT AND MY FORMER PARTNER.
FULL TILT PSYCHOPATH WITH MAJOR SADISTIC TENDENCIES
NOW HE'S SOME SORT OF GOVERNMENT GOON-BOY GOING BY THE NAME
LASTIC
HE'S TRYING TO HURT MY FRIENDS
AND HE'D LIKE TO BRING ME IN.
BUT

HE'S PISSING ME OFF.
PISSIN' OFF 800 POUNDS OF MASS DESTRUCTION ISN'T SOMETHING YOU WANT TO DO.
UHHH...
UHHH... VICTOR... YOU AND THIS CREEP KNOW EACH OTHER??
REGEANNE!
UNLESS YOU HAVE A DEATH WISH.
620
IT'SSS GOOD TO SSEE YOU AGAIN, VICTOR
AHHHH-- YOURBLOOD LUSST TAKES EFFECT RATHER QUICKLY
I SEE THE CHANGE IN YOU IS ALL FOR THE BETTER!
AND I SEE THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME

KNOW EACH OTHER?? WE'RE PRACTICALLY BROTHERS!!
BACK IN UNIT SSSSIX YOU WERE ALWAYS CRAMPIN' MY SSSTYLE, VIC
GRRRR
TOO BAD I CAN'T BE THE ONE TO KILL YOU, VIC
BUT IT SSSURE WILL BE FUN BRINGING YOU IN
UHHH!
YOU MURDERED INNOCENT WOMEN AND CHILDREN
I'VE BEEN WAITING TO BUST YOU UP FOR A LONG TIME
WAIT LONGER!
AAGHH!

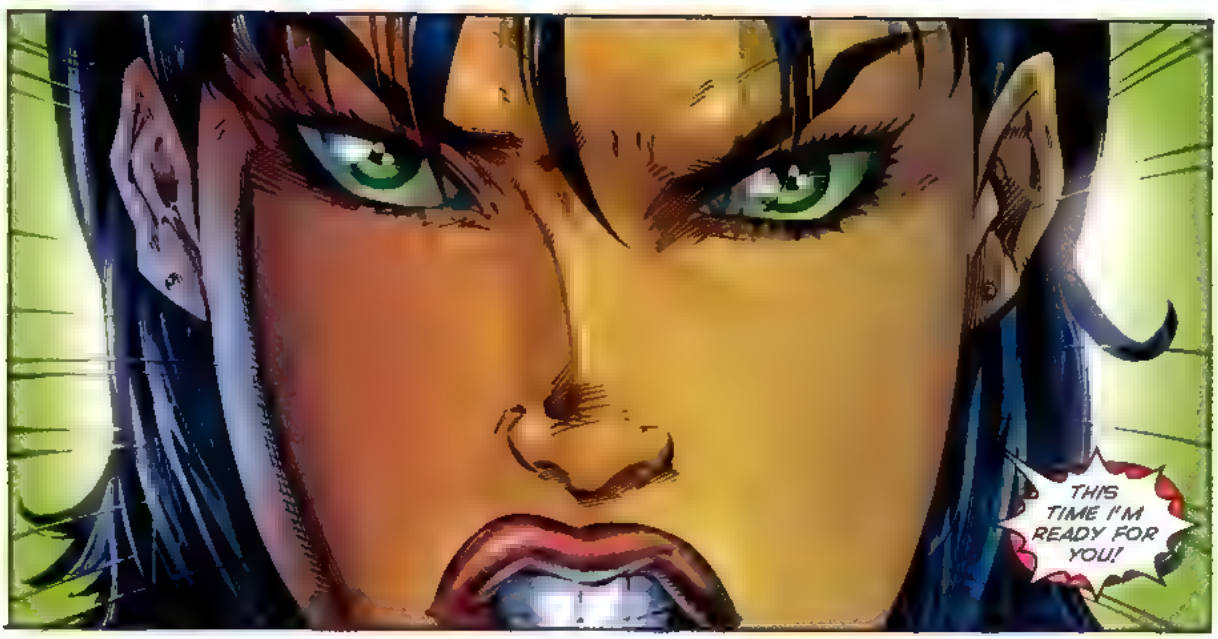
I HAVE TO SAY YOU'RE A LITTLE BIT OF A DISAPPOINTMENT I WAS EXPECTING MORE OF A CHALLENGE FROM YOU. ALTHOUGH, I HAVE TO SAY I LOVE THE MAKEOVER!
I PREFER THE MONSTER LOOK MYSELF
YOU SSEE-- I WANTED TO BE LIKE THIS!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS--I WON'T HARM THEM. FOR NOW THIS IS BETWEEN YOU AND ME
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT-- LET'SSS MAKE THIS EASY FOR YOU
SREAAAK!
POOF!
SRK-RK!
I WANT YOU TO TRY TO KILL ME
I MEAN REALLY--GIVE IT A TRY! I'LL EVEN GIVE YOU A BREAK
SRACKK!
I'LL TURN MY BACK ON YOU
THROW A CAR AT ME OR SOMETHING
I DON'T CARE HOW YOU DO IT--
BUT TRY TO BE CREATIVE-- CAUSE YOU ONLY GET ONE SHOT AT THIS
WITH PLEASURE

SSCREEEEECCKKK!
HOW CAN I REFUSE AN OLD FRIEND?
IS THIS CREATIVE ENOUGH FOR YA?
PAGGGHRRCCSSSSSSHH!
AUKUGGHHH!
THAT'S THE IDEA!

FLIQUISSHH!
WHA..WHAT THE HELL'S HAPPENING TO ME??
WELCOME TO MY WORLD, NUMBER TEN!
RHAZES DARKK FIXED ITSSSO I COULD TWISST ANYTHING.
AHHH
ESPERANZA'S POWERS..
YOUR POWERS
OH SHI---
WHOOOOOMM
SSPIAAAGG
=RGGHHBLLJUPBB
OOOOOOHHH
HOW DOES IT FEEL...TO BE THE ONE WHO'S LEFT FOR DEAD? AHHH PAYBACK'S A B
BLAAAAAM!
BLAAAAAM!
BLAAAAAM!
YAAAITCHHH!

WHAT'S WRONG, LASTIC...
CAN'T JUGGLE THREE BALLS AT ONCE YOUR CRUMMY POWERS DON'T WORK THAT WAY, EH?
YOU LITTLE FLEA!!
DO YOU THINK BULLETS CAN STOP ME?!
FLIQUISSH!
FLIQUISSH!
ZORINA-- YOU'D BETTER STAND BACK. .
FAPTTTINK!
FAPTTTINK!
FAAPTTTINK!
LIKE I SAID BEFORE, MUTT--
YOU I GET TO KILL!
WHIIISSHHH!
WHIIISSHHH!

KRAAAAHHDD!
KAAATLLING!
KAAATLLING!
KAAATLLING!
GET BEHIND ME!
FEELING LIKE YOURSELF AGAIN MSSSS ESSSPERANZA??
ENJOY IT BECAUSE YOU WON'T BE FOR LONG.
KEEP WISHING

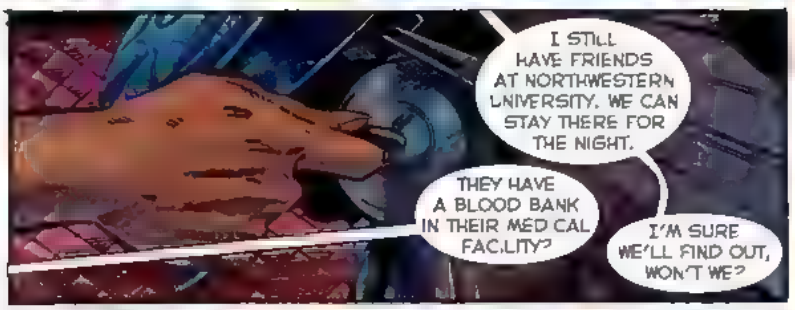

THIS TIME I'M READY FOR YOU!

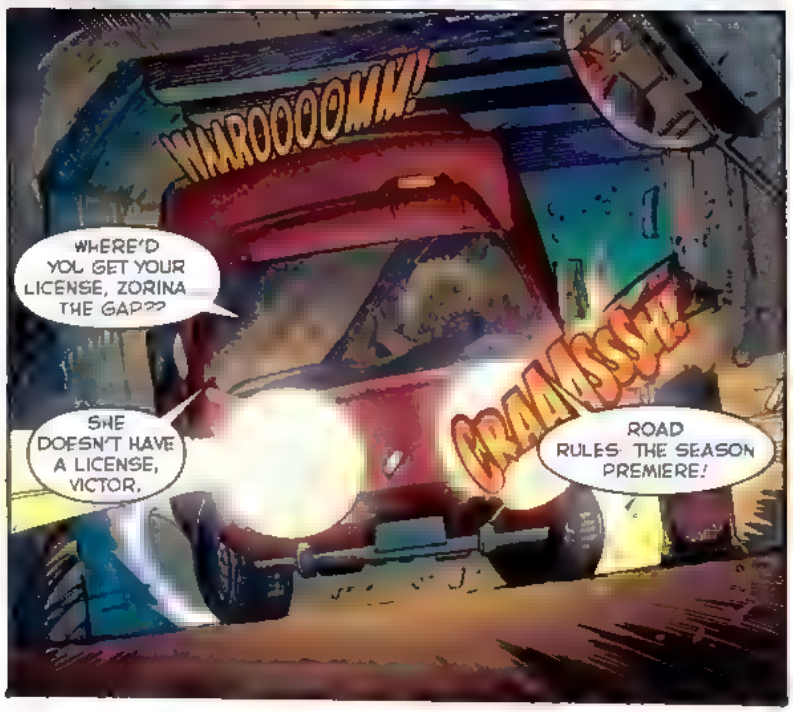
VICTOR YOU OKAY?
YEAH
SSSUCH A KODAK MOMENT
IT'S TIME TO STOP F*?ING AROUND
I COULDN'T HAVE SAID IT BETTER
KHAANNGK!
ARRCCHH!
SPLAASSH
SCRUNCH!

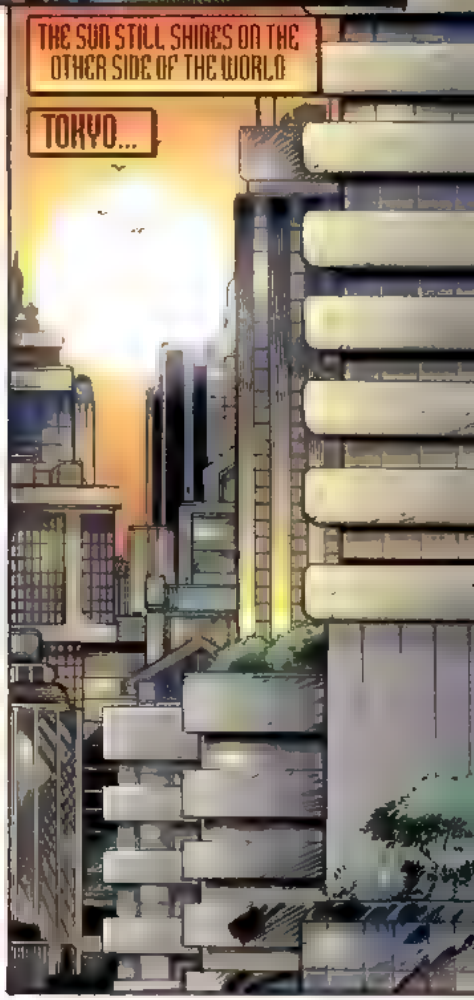
DIE BASTARD!!
SPLAAASHH!
OK EVERYONE, HE'S UNDER WATER SOMEWHERE--BE ALERT AND BE READY FOR ANYTHING. ESPY, IT'S UP TO YOU TO STOP HIM.
HE OBVIOUSLY HAS THE ABILITY TO TWIST REALITY. HE MAY TRY AGAIN TO CONTORT YOUR TELEKINESIS, ESPY
THEN WE GOTTA FIND HIM BEFORE HE FINDS US.
LISTEN...
JH--GUYS
BLUB
BLUB
BLUB

WWWOOOOSSSSSH!
TIME'S UP!
YEEEE!!!!!
...EEPY!!!
WOOOOSSSSHH!!!
AAAAAGGGHHH!!!
OHMYGOD!
OHMYGOD!
GRRRROOOOWL!

NOW I'M DONE F@%%ING AROUND.
YOU GUYS READY TO GET OUT OF HERE?
BEEN READY
ARRCHHH
VICTOR! COME BACK AND FINISH ME OFF!
KILL ME!

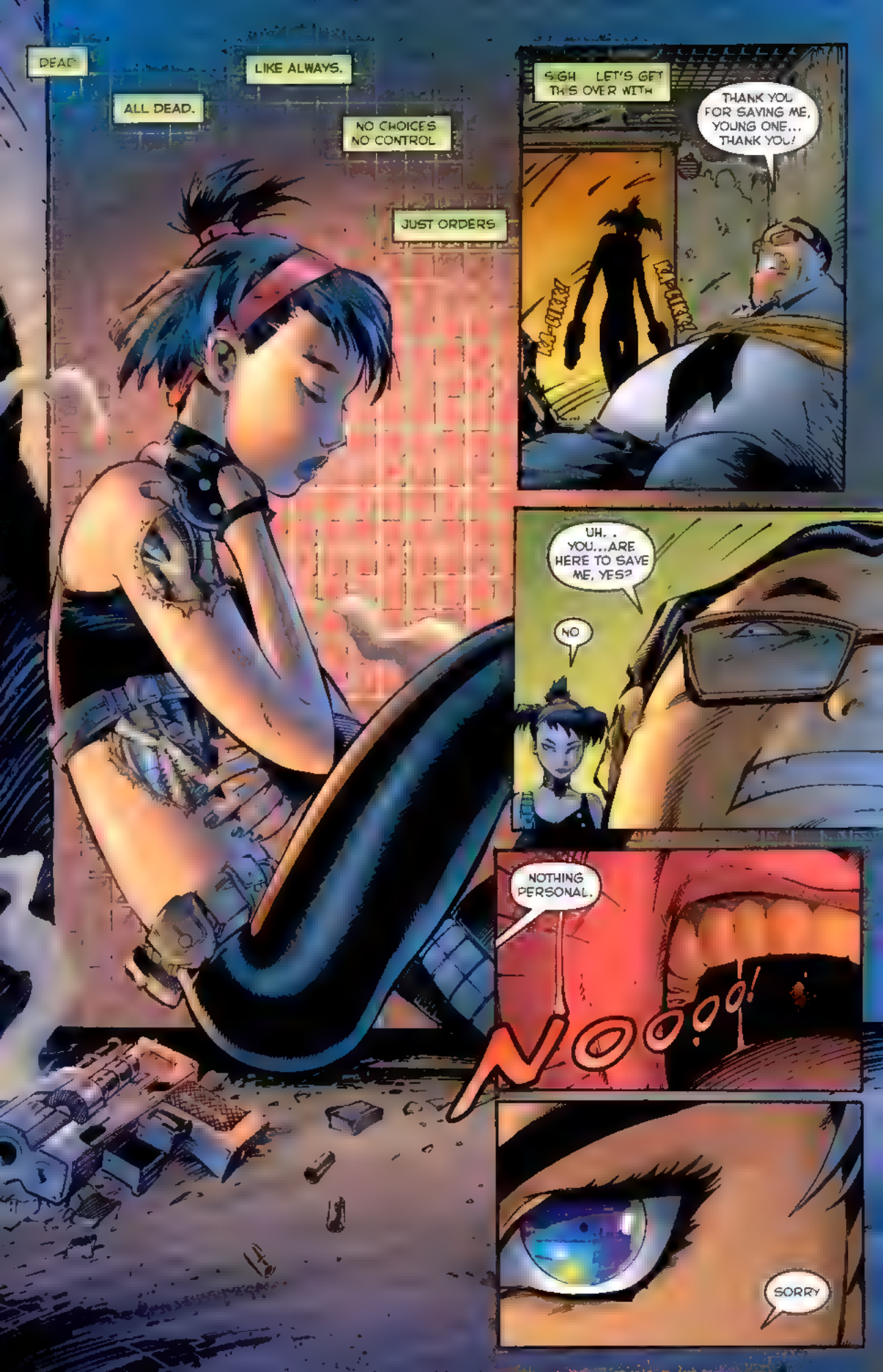

I STILL HAVE FRIENDS AT NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY. WE CAN STAY THERE FOR THE NIGHT.
THEY HAVE A BLOOD BANK IN THEIR MED CAL FACILITY?
I'M SURE WE'LL FIND OUT, WON'T WE?


WHAROOOOMM!
WHERE'D YOU GET YOUR LICENSE, ZORINA THE GAP??
SHE DOESN'T HAVE A LICENSE, VICTOR.
CRAAASSH!
ROAD RULES: THE SEASON PREMIERE!


THE SUN STILL SHINES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD
TOKYO...

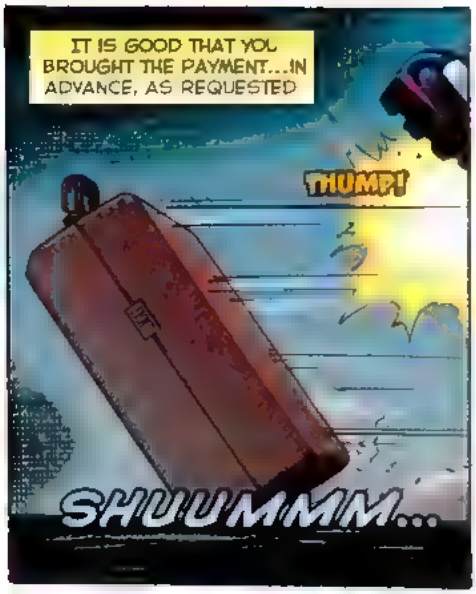
THE UNDERWORLD OF TOKYO
WHERE THE PRICE OF DRUGS IS A PREMIUM.
BUT YOU CAN GET A BELLY FULL OF PAIN AT A REAL LOW PRICE
NO! NO! NO MORE.. PLEASE!!
QUIT YOU'RE CRYIN', HIROSHI
THE REAL BEATIN' WASN'T EVEN STARTED YET.
YOU RATTED OUR BOSS OUT TO FUJISAKI AND HIS SECRET POLICE
DID YOU THINK THAT PUTTIN' HIM AWAY MEANT HIS WHOLE ORGANIZATION WOULD BE STOPPED? HE NEVER DID TRUST YOUR KIND. POLITICIANS--SCUMMIER THAN EVEN THE RATS IN THIS DAMN PLACE!
DON'T TAKE THIS PERSONALLY, HIRO--BUT YA SEE WE'VE GOTTA MAKE AN EXAMPLE OUT OF YOU.
PLEASE SIRS! I-I- CAN MAKE YOU A DEAL! ALL THE MONEY YOU WANT!!! PLEASE DON'T KILL ME--
KILL YOU?! YOU DON'T GET OFF THAT EASY, HIRO.
YOU'LL ONLY WISH YOU WERE DEAD WHEN WE'RE THROUGH WITH YOU.
BRAAASSHH!
IT'S A BUST!!!..

AAGHH
YIIII
BLAAAMM!
BLAAAMM!
BLAAAAMM!
SORRY TO INTERRUPT FELLAS--
YOU'LL GET OVER IT!
I AM SAVED!
BADOOM!
YOU'RE BOSS IS BETTER OFF THAN YOU.
HE'S ALIVE
PATTING!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
PTOW!
PTOW!

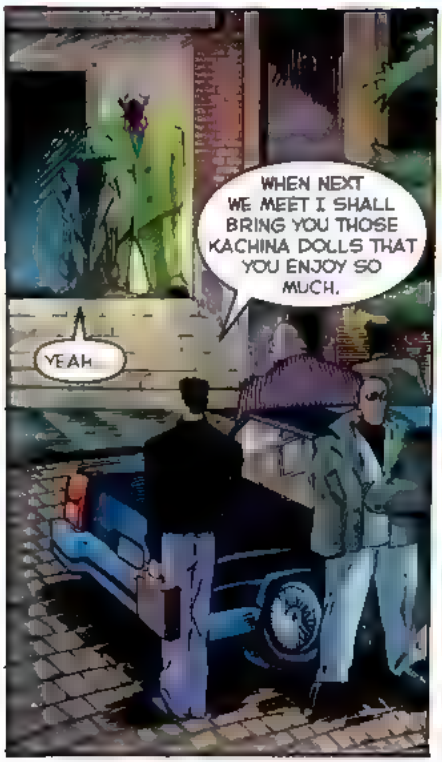

DEAD
LIKE ALWAYS.
ALL DEAD.
NO CHOICES NO CONTROL
JUST ORDERS
SIGH LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH
THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME, YOUNG ONE... THANK YOU!
KA-CHUNK
KA-CHUNK
UH. . YOU...ARE HERE TO SAVE ME, YES?
NO
NOTHING PERSONAL.
NOOOO!
SORRY

BLAM!!
BRILLIANT ADDIE
I APPLAUD YOU.
AS ALWAYS.
BUT . IT IS TIME TO LEAVE THIS PLACE OF BLOOD.
YOU SHIVER. . HERE, THIS WILL WARM YOU.
THANK YOU, YURI I AM...COLD.
THIS MAN WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU WHILE YOU ARE HERE, ADDIE.
HE IS A GOOD MAN A FRIEND.
HE 'S IN NEED OF YOUR SPECIAL TALENTS
TAP..
TAP.
HE WILL PAY US WELL FOR THEM.

HIS NAME IS MR. MOTO FUJISAKI
HE IS YOUR NEW BENEFACTOR
HMMPH.


IT IS GOOD THAT YOU BROUGHT THE PAYMENT...IN ADVANCE, AS REQUESTED
THUMP!
SHUUMMM...

OF COURSE I WILL MISS YOU LITTLE ONE
BUT I WILL BE IN CONTACT. YOU HAVE MY WORD


WHEN NEXT WE MEET I SHALL BRING YOU THOSE KACHINA DOLLS THAT YOU ENJOY SO MUCH.
YEAH.

SURE

GOODBYE YUKI.
VRROOMM...

YOU DO UNDERSTAND, ADRENALYNN.
YOU HAVE A HOME NOW NO MORE MOVING AROUND. WE SHALL BE YOUR FAMILY.
I DO UNDERSTAND, MR. FUJISAKI...
I WILL OBEY
ZORINA, ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO THE UNIVERSITY?
IT'S KINDA CREEPY.
I LIKE IT
I HOPE MOM DOESN'T HAVE A COW WHEN SHE SEES WHAT YOU DID TO HER VAN, VICTOR...THAT IS IF AND WHEN WE FIND HER
WOODMERE CEMETERY EVANSTON ILLINOIS
UH, SORRY! I SHOULD'VE EXPECTED A QUICK METAMORPHOSIS BACK INTO THE TENTH
LASTIC TOYED WITH MY BLOODCELL COUNT OR SOMETHING TO CHANGE ME INTO MY HUMAN FORM
BEFORE THAT, MY BODY LOST A LOT OF BLOOD WHEN HE THREW ME FIFTEEN STORIES!
THAT'S WHAT CHANGED ME BACK INTO MY MONSTER FORM IN THE FIRST PLACE

AND DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT YOUR MOM, Z. WE KNOW THAT BLACKSPELL HAS HER AND WHEREVER HE IS SHE IS
LOOKING FOR CLUES AT MRS. FINES' CONDO WAS A START BUT WE CAME UP SHORT. I'M STARTING TO WONDER IF WE'RE GETTING ANYWHERE WITH THESE SCOOBIE DOO TACTICS.
1970
GUYS, I THINK THE SHORT CUT IS THIS WAY... NO... THE OTHER WAY. . I. THINK
WELL WE NOW KNOW THAT MRS.FINE WAS DEFINITELY WORKING ON SOME COVERT MISSION WITH SOME GUY NAMED DIRECTOR JAFFE FINDING OUT JUST WHAT Z'S MOTHER WAS IN ON MAY OPEN UP MORE DOORS
THE ONLY DOOR WE'RE INTERESTED IN IS THE ONE IN WHICH BLACKSPELL HIDES BEHIND
SINCE BLACKSPELL, LIKE ME, WAS CREATED BY RHAZES DARKK, THEN HE TOO HAS A HUMAN FORM
AHHH SHORTCUT IS THIS WAY
IF WE CAN SOMEHOW FIND OUT JUST WHO THE OTHER NINE'S HUMAN HOSTS WERE--WE JUST MIGHT UNCOVER WHERE HE'S MOST LIKELY TO RUN TO.

THEN WE MUST FIND OUT WHERE DIRECTOR JAFFE STAYED. I'M SURE ZORINA CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO TRACE HIS LAST TRANSMISSION FROM THAT SUITCASE GIZMO
RUUUUMBLE....
WHAT THE HELL'S THA--
AHH JEEZE-- WHAT NEXT?!
LOOK AT THAT GRAVE!!
WHOOOOOMPH!

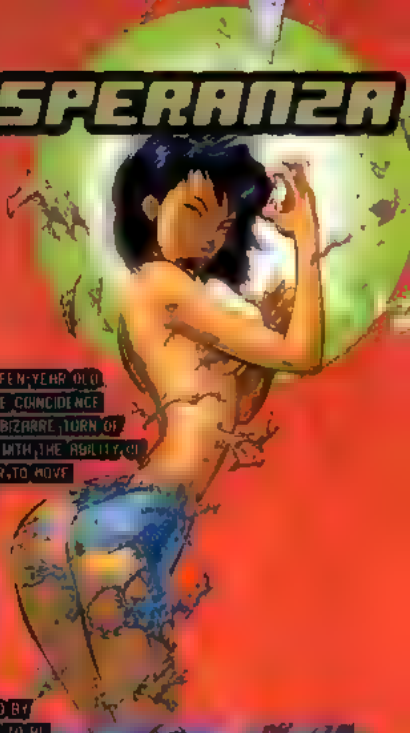
OHMYGOD! IT'S KILLCROW!!
SHREEK!
NO!
DARKK??
NOT.. THE .. RIGHT .
THUMMP!
PLACE!
THUUNKK!
PARDON MY ENTRANCE. MY COORDINATES WERE A LITTLE SHAKEN AND I TELEPORTED TO THE WRONG LOCATION. DON'T BE FRIGHTENED YOUNG ONES... I'M HERE TO HELP YOU, AND SEEK YOUR HELP IN RETURN.
YOU MAY CALL ME
GULLIVER
NEXT ISSUE
GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

THE CAST

VICTOR aka THE TENTH

VICTOR WAS PART OF A COVERT CIA MISSION TO UNCOVER THE DIABOLICAL SCHEMES OF THE MONSTER MAKING MADMAN RHAZES DARKK. RHAZES DARKK'S GOAL WAS TO RESHAPE THE EARTH INTO DARKK EARTH—AN ALTERED REGENERATION OF LIFE AS WE KNOW IT. VICTOR WAS CAPTURED BY DARKK BUT WAS SPARED HIS LIFE AS HE FIT DARKK'S CRITERIA FOR THE TENTH SUPERMONSTER. NINE OTHER SUPERMONSTERS WERE CREATED TO DO RHAZES DARKK'S BIDDING. EACH HAVING THEIR OWN PURPOSE IN DARKK'S PLAN, THEY WERE SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE GLOBE. BUT THINGS DIDN'T GO AS RHAZES PLANNED WITH VICTOR—NOT ONLY DID HE CREATE THE SUPERPOWERED ABOMINATION KNOWN AS THE TENTH—HE CREATED THE ULTIMATE PREDATOR. UNBEKNOWNST TO RHAZES, HE HIMSELF HAS NOW BECOME THE TENTH'S ULTIMATE PREY.

ESPERANZA



ESPERANZA IS AN EIGHTEEN-YEAR OLD ORPHAN WHO BY STRANGE COINCIDENCE MET VICTOR THROUGH A BIZARRE TURN OF EVENTS. SHE WAS BORN WITH THE ABILITY OF TELEKINESIS—THE POWER TO MOVE OBJECTS WITH A MERE THOUGHT OR WILL. HER POWER WAS GROWN STRONGER SINCE HER FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH THE TENTH. HER MAIN GOAL IS TO HELP THE TENTH TRACK DOWN BLACKSPELL—THE SUPERMONSTER CREATED BY DARKK WHO IS BELIEVED TO BE HOLDING ZORINA'S MOTHER CAPTIVE!

LASTIC

LASTIC IS NOT ONE OF THE ORIGINAL TEN SUPERMONSTERS CREATED BY DARKK. HE WAS HOWEVER CHANGED INTO SUPERMONSTER FORM WITH THE HELP OF DARKK'S TECHNOLOGY. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE US GOVERNMENT GOT A HOLD OF THIS TECHNOLOGY THROUGH COVERT AGENTS WHO WORKED AT DARKK'S LABORATORIES IN THE NOW OBLITERATED SPRINGDALE. ALL EVIDENCE OF THIS DISAPPEARED WITH THE TOWN. LASTIC (FORMERLY CAPT. LONNIE MCGUIRE) WAS ONE OF VICTOR'S COVERT MISSION COMRADES WHO WENT OFF THE DEEP END ON A SECRET MISSION IN SINGAPORE. LASTIC WENT ON A KILLING SPREE, KILLING INNOCENT WOMEN AND CHILDREN. HE WAS STOPPED AND TURNED IN BY VICTOR. IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS FREEDOM HE VOLUNTARILY UNDERWENT MASSIVE TESTING OF RHAZES DARKK'S REGENERATING EXPERIMENTS. HIS MISSION—TO OBEY THE CLOAKED FACTION OF THE CIA.

ADRENALYNN

THIS TEENAGE KILLING MACHINE IS JUST THAT—A KILLING MACHINE. EVEN THOUGH THE COLD WAR IS OVER, COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SPYING ARE STILL HIGH ON THE PRIORITY LIST OF SOME SECRET GROUPS OF THE NOW DEFUNCT KGB. UNABLE TO GATHER THE SAME INFORMATION THE U.S. DID ON RHAZES DARKK AND HIS REGENERATION TECHNOLOGY, THEY CREATED THEIR OWN SELF MADE, GENETICALLY ENHANCED SUPERPOWERED KILLER. THIS ONE TAKING THE FORM OF AN INNOCENT SCHOOL GIRL MAKES HER AN UNLIKELY FOE AND EVEN UNLIKELIER NEMESIS. NO MORE DATA IS YET AVAILABLE...

MR. MOTO FUJISAKI

FUJISAKI IS THE HEAD OF THE JAPANESE SECRET POLICE. RIGHT NOW HIS BASE OF OPERATIONS IS INSIDE TOKYO. HIS OBJECTIVE IS TO UNCOVER THE DISAPPEARANCES OF VILLAGES, ITS PEOPLE, AND MOST OF ALL, HIS MEN. IT IS BELIEVED THAT ONE OF RHAZES DARKK'S MOST HIDEOUS CREATIONS, THE SUPERMONSTER GOZZA, IS PLANNING A TAKEOVER OF JAPAN—THEN THE WORLD.

GOZZA

THIS KID SUPERMONSTER [illegible] BRAINS BEHIND THE OVERTHROW OF HIS CREATOR, RHAZES DARKK. HE BELIEVES THAT IT IS NOW HIS TURN TO COMPLETE WHAT RHAZES WAS TOO CRAZY AND SENILE TO COMPLETE. HIS ARMY OF F.A.R.'S (STANDS FOR FULL ARMOR RUCKUS GIANT FIGHTING ROBOTS) WILL AID HIM AND HIS WILL.

Image
2.50
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SMITH
ALQUIZA
CONRAD
MOUNT
DIRECT SALES
00321
09853 11006

THE TENTH

ISSUE 3

TONY DANIEL

CREATOR, PENCILER, PLOT

BEAU SMITH

WRITER

MARIO GULLUNIZA

KELLY CONDIT

INKERS

PAUL MAYBURY AND BOB PINAFORE

COLORS AND SEPERATIONS

KELLY GRAPHICS

LETTERS AND FILM

BARBARA KALOWSKI

EDITOR

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE...

The Tenth, Espy, and Zorina come face to face with a new foe...Lastic. Unlike the ten supermonsters created by Rhazes Darkk, Lastic was created by a covert faction of the U.S. Government with Darkk's technology. Easily defeated and destroyed by the Tenth and Esperanza, more mutants of destruction will surely follow to finish what Lastic started. Meanwhile, overseas in Russia, a secret organization headed by ex-members of the defunct K.G.B. are developing their own superpowered killers. The first prototype: ADRENALYNN, has been acquired by Moto Fujisaki of Japan's secret police. After fleeing to Evanston,IL, the Tenth, Esperanza, and Zorina come across a pint size teleporter named Gulliver. His intentions are as follows....

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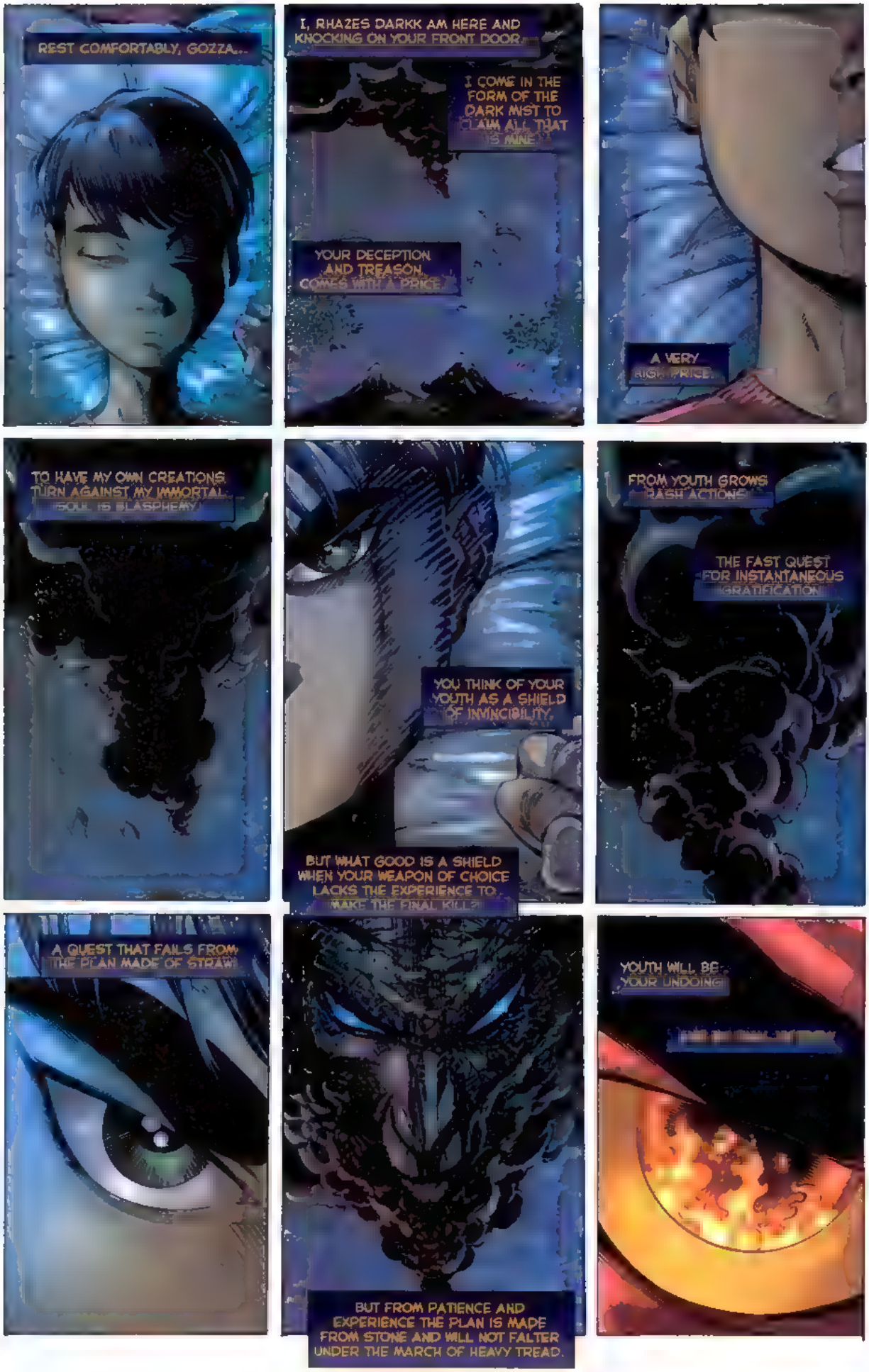
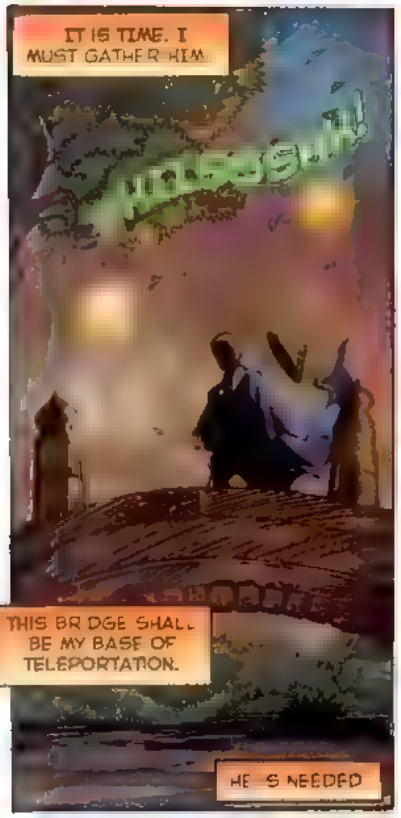

REST COMFORTABLY, GOZZA...
I, RHAZES DARKK AM HERE AND KNOCKING ON YOUR FRONT DOOR.
I COME IN THE FORM OF THE DARK MIST TO CLAIM ALL THAT IS MINE.
YOUR DECEPTION AND TREASON COMES WITH A PRICE.
A VERY HIGH PRICE.
TO HAVE MY OWN CREATIONS TURN AGAINST MY IMMORTAL SOUL IS BLASPHEMY.
YOU THINK OF YOUR YOUTH AS A SHIELD OF INVINCIBILITY.
BUT WHAT GOOD IS A SHIELD WHEN YOUR WEAPON OF CHOICE LACKS THE EXPERIENCE TO MAKE THE FINAL KILL?
FROM YOUTH GROWS RASH ACTIONS.
THE FAST QUEST FOR INSTANTANEOUS GRATIFICATION.
A QUEST THAT FAILS FROM THE PLAN MADE OF STRAW.
BUT FROM PATIENCE AND EXPERIENCE THE PLAN IS MADE FROM STONE AND WILL NOT FALTER UNDER THE MARCH OF HEAVY TREAD.
YOUTH WILL BE YOUR UNDOING.

TOKYO JAPAN
THE VILLAGE OF THE
THINGS ARE NOT RIGHT
DARKNESS FELL ONCE THIS EVENING
NOW THROUGH A MIST IT FALLS AGAIN
<LOOK.. THE SKY... WHAT S IT?>
IT IS NOT WINTER, BUT I FEEL A SEARING COLD MIST SEEP THROUGH TO MY VERY BONES
THE COLD STING THAT ONLY DEATH BRINGS.
AND DEATH TRAVELS ON THE DARK MIST OF EVIL

IT COMES BUT EVEN MORE WICKED AND SEEMINGLY MORE POWERFUL THAN EVEN I EXPECTED
RUN RUN


IT IS TIME. I MUST GATHER HIM
THIS BRIDGE SHALL BE MY BASE OF TELEPORTATION.
HE IS NEEDED

HIS TRUE PURPOSE IS EVEN UNKNOWN TO HIM
ONLY HE CAN STOP THE DARK STORM.

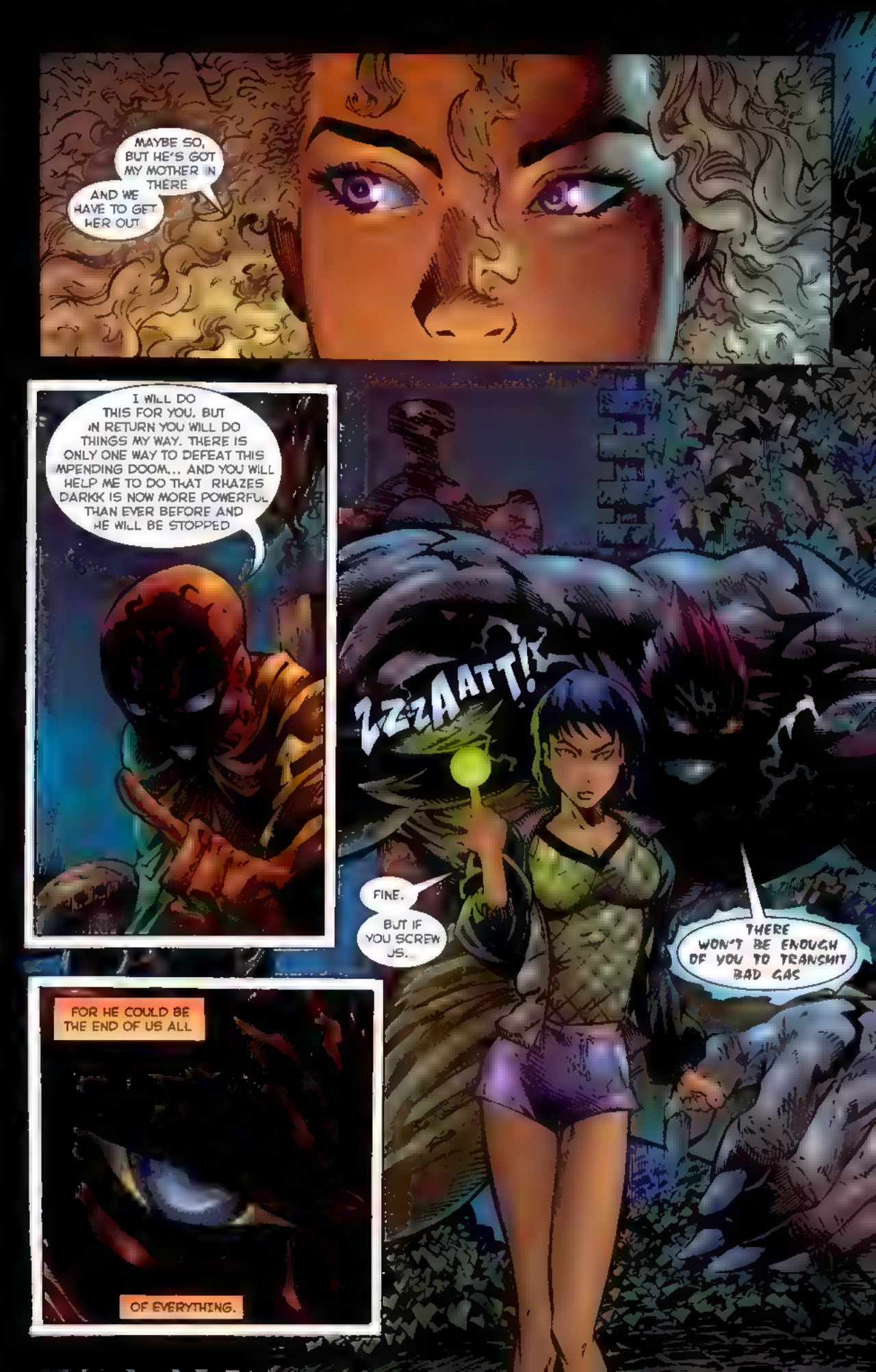
HE IS THE ONLY ONE

EVANSTON ILLINOIS
NOW
NICE STORY. BUT ANYBODY CAN SPIN A GOOD TALE.
THERE ARE NINE OTHERS LIKE ME WHAT'S TO MAKE US THINK YOU'RE NOT ANOTHER ONE OF DARKK'S LITTLE BUG BOYS?
I THINK HE'S LYING

LET'S JUST KILL HIM . I'M TIRED OF THE GAMES
I'M BEGINNING TO SHARE YOUR IMPATIENCE
NO...WAIT!
I TELEPORTED HERE FOR A REASON. TO HELP...
LEPORTED??
DID YOU SAY TELEPORTED?

YES. I DID. I AM A TRANSMITTER OF MATTER.
I CONVERT MATTER TO ENERGY AND TRANSPORT IT. YOU ARE NEEDED IN JAPAN. DARKK IS THERE. ONLY YOU CAN STOP HIM.
REALLY?
IF DARKK IS THERE THAT MEANS BLACKSPELL IS NOT FAR BEHIND. HE HAS ZORINA'S MOTHER. WE WANT HER BACK.
CAN YOU TELEPORT US INSIDE OF BLACKSPELL? THAT'S WHERE HE KEEPS HIS VICTIMS...INSIDE HIS BODY
IF YOU CAN REALLY TELEPORT, THEN SEND US TO HIM.
MAYBE WE CAN FIND MY MOTHER AND TELEPORT HER TO A SAFE PLACE
IF YOU KNOW OF BLACKSPELL THEN YOU KNOW HE'S LIKE ME ENHANCED BY DARKK CREATED FROM A HUMAN HOST
WE WANT IN HIM EVEN IF WE HAVE TO TURN HIM INSIDE OUT TO GET MRS FINE
IT IS MUCH TOO DANGEROUS TO ATTEMPT SUCH A RESCUE. I AM AFRAID THAT ONCE SOMEONE HAS FALLEN VICTIM TO BLACKSPELL'S LABYRINTH, THEY ARE FOREVER PART OF HIS BLACK ARMY.
WHEN BLACKSPELL SAVED RHAZES FROM GOZZA'S BETRAYAL, HE INADVERTENTLY TOOK HIM CAPTIVE FOREVER AS WELL
I BELIEVE THAT RHAZES AND BLACKSPELL LIVING IN THE SAME BODY SOMEHOW MORPHED INTO SOMETHING ELSE...

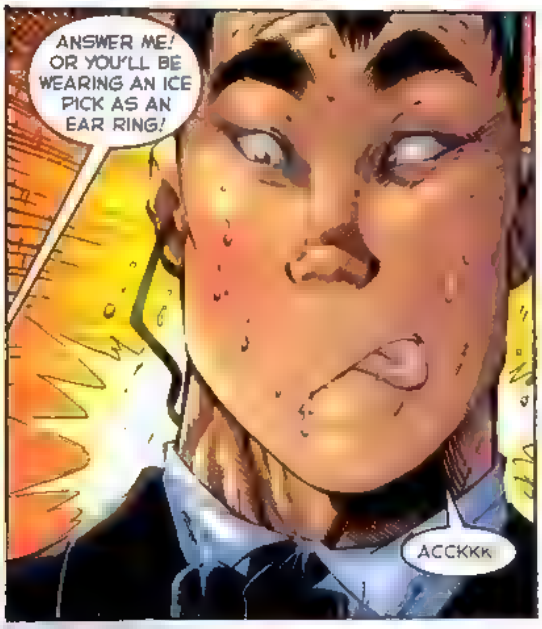
SOMETHING TEN TIMES MORE EVIL AND POWERFUL. RHAZES AND BLACKSPELL ARE NOW ONE
I WILL TAKE YOU TO BLACKSPELL'S LABYRINTH
THERE THE INNER SPIRITS OF LIGHT ARE THROWN TO THE MERCY OF THE BLACK SOULS WITHIN
EVIL THAT HAS BEEN DEVOURED BUT NEVER DIGESTED
AS NOW THERE ARE NO LIMITS TO THEIR EVIL-- OR THEIR POWERS
WE WILL MAKE THE TRIP TOGETHER. WE CANNOT STAY FOR MORE THAN A FEW MINUTES. I AM SORRY, BUT IF WE DO NOT FIND THE PERSON WHOM YOU SEEK, WE WILL NEVER GET A SECOND CHANCE .
FOR THEIR DOMAIN IS VAST AND UNFORGIVING WE WILL BE GREETED WITH ALMOST IMMEDIATE REPRISAL UPON ENTRY
IF WE ARE DEFEATED WHILE INSIDE BLACKSPELL WE WILL SURELY BE DOOMED

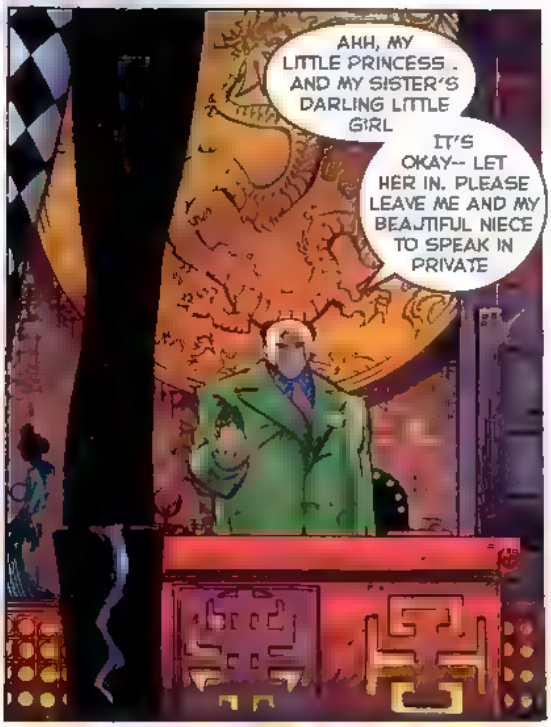

MAYBE SO, BUT HE'S GOT MY MOTHER IN THERE
AND WE HAVE TO GET HER OUT
I WILL DO THIS FOR YOU. BUT IN RETURN YOU WILL DO THINGS MY WAY. THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO DEFEAT THIS IMPENDING DOOM... AND YOU WILL HELP ME TO DO THAT RHAZES DARKK IS NOW MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER BEFORE AND HE WILL BE STOPPED
ZZZAATT!
FINE.
BUT IF YOU SCREW US.
THERE WON'T BE ENOUGH OF YOU TO TRANSMIT BAD GAS
FOR HE COULD BE THE END OF US ALL
OF EVERYTHING.

I UNDERSTAND
WE MUST GO NOW
FRIZZZoooo
A SMALL AMOUNT OF NAUSEA MAY FOLLOW
FRIZZZoooo
OH GREAT...
FUZZZATT
TOKYO JAPAN
GET OUT OF MY WAY!
BUT... BUT.. M... TERRANOVA I-I
I DON'T CARE IF THEY ARE IN A MEETING
FOOLS! DON'T YOU REAL...ZE WHO I AM?!
HE WILL NOT REFUSE TO SEE ME

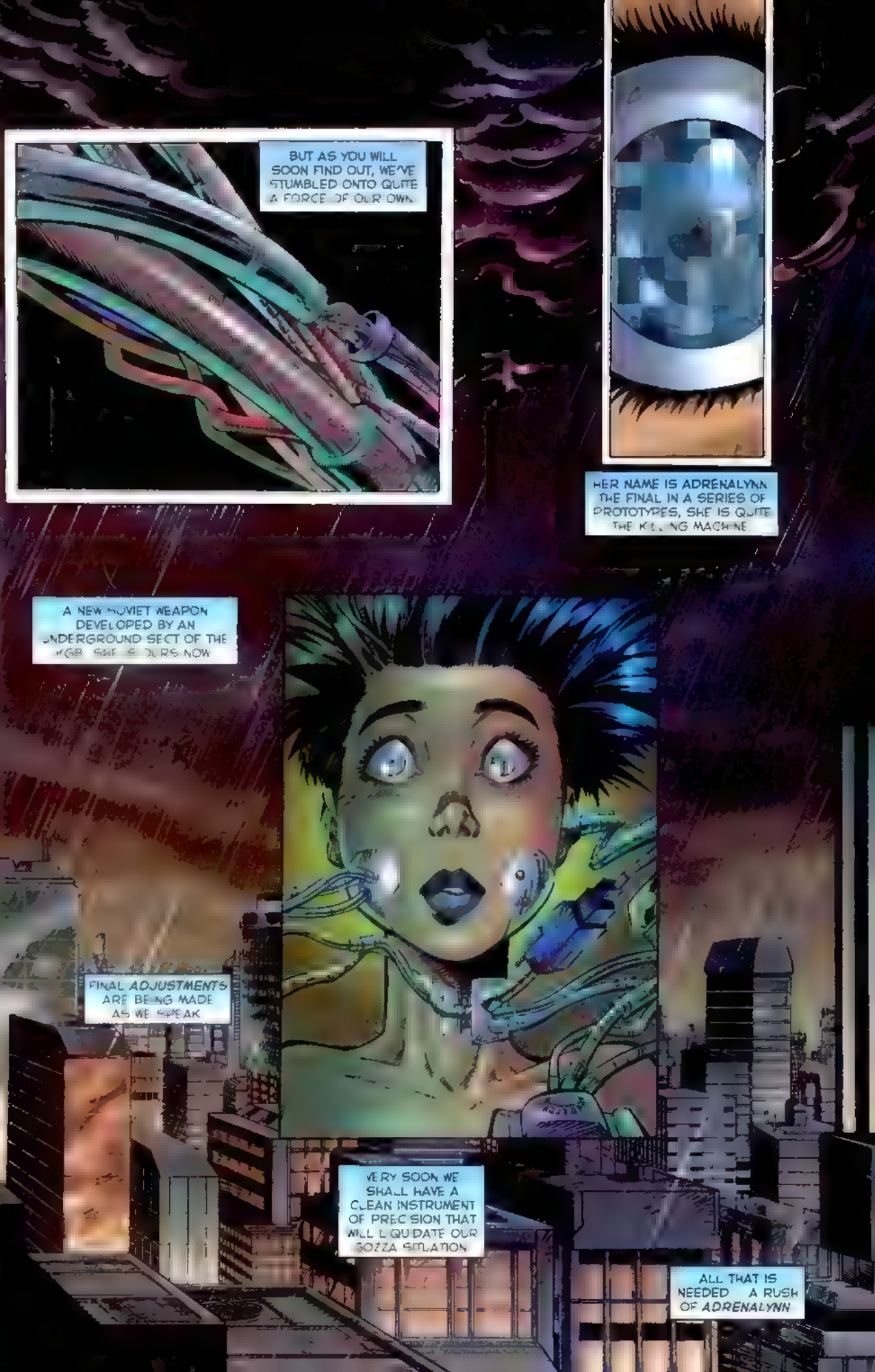
WHERE'S FUJISAKI??
I NEED ANSWERS!
EH??

I'M KANA TERRANOVA, VITO TERRANOVA IS MY FATHER. YOU KNOW.. SICILY, ITALY... NOSE THAT GOES THE OTHER WAY.
WHERE S FUJISAK
AHHH


ANSWER ME! OR YOU'LL BE WEARING AN ICE PICK AS AN EAR RING!
ACCKKK

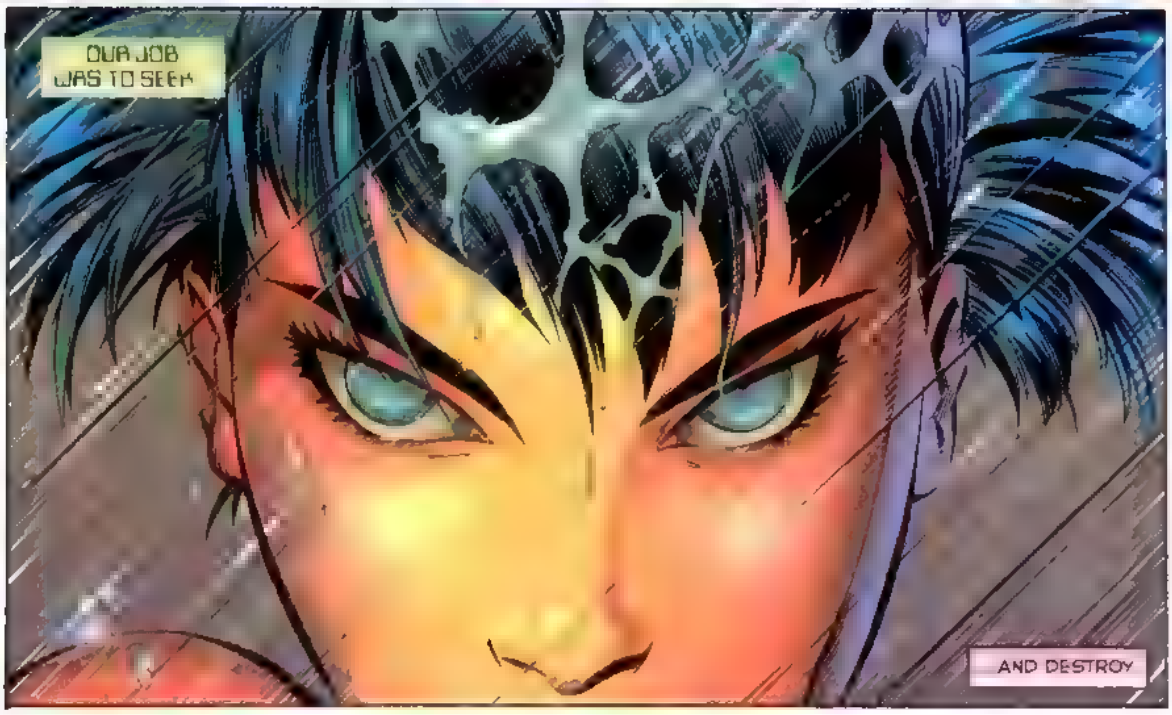

AHH, MY LITTLE PRINCESS . AND MY SISTER'S DARLING LITTLE GIRL
IT'S OKAY-- LET HER IN. PLEASE LEAVE ME AND MY BEAUTIFUL NIECE TO SPEAK IN PRIVATE

HELLO, UNCLE MOTO.
DADDY SENDS HIS BEST... ME! HE WANTS ANSWERS.. RESULTS... GOZZA IN A BODY BAG
YES, YES. AND MY SISTER.. YOUR MOTHER IS WELL?
MOTHER IS FINE. SHE SENDS HER LOVE.
DADDY WANTS TO KNOW WHY YOU HAVE LET GOZZA TAKE THE VILLAGES?
HE IS NOT HAPPY IT IS NOT GOOD FOR OUR MUTUAL BUSINESS.
AH YES.. I HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF MONEY YOUR ITALIAN FATHER HAS INVESTED IN OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES.
GIVE HIM MY ASSURANCE THAT I WILL HAVE TAKEN CARE OF THIS SITUATION FOR THE SAKE OF JAPAN
THE FACT THAT HE BENEFITS OUT OF MY SWIFT ACTIONS IS ONLY COINCIDENTAL.
IN FACT I'VE INVESTED IN THE PROPER STEPS TO WIPE OUT THIS SUPERNATURAL MENACE.
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT SUPERNATURAL?
IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT WE'VE STUMBLED UPON A SUPERNATURAL FORCE


BUT AS YOU WILL SOON FIND OUT, WE'VE STUMBLED ONTO QUITE A FORCE OF OUR OWN
HER NAME IS ADRENALYNN THE FINAL IN A SERIES OF PROTOTYPES, SHE IS QUITE THE KILLING MACHINE
A NEW SOVIET WEAPON DEVELOPED BY AN UNDERGROUND SECT OF THE KGB SHE IS OURS NOW
FINAL ADJUSTMENTS ARE BEING MADE AS WE SPEAK
VERY SOON WE SHALL HAVE A CLEAN INSTRUMENT OF PRECISION THAT WILL LIQUIDATE OUR GOZZA SITUATION
ALL THAT IS NEEDED A RUSH OF ADRENALYNN

CAN'T.. MOVE .. NO CONTROLS...
YURI? YURI?
YURI IS GONE. FOREVER. HE IS NO LONGER A PART OF OUR CURRENT THOUGHTS.
HE IS THE PAST. A MEMORY NOTHING MORE
WHIRRRRR..
SNAAAP!
CLIIICK!!
UHH. SO HARD TO KEEP THOUGHTS...
CONTROL OF EXTREMITIES AT 98 % OVER RIDE REMAINING MEMORY CHIPS.
WHIRRR...!
RELEASE THE UNIMPORTANT THOUGHTS WE NEED ONLY THE ONES THAT FOCUS ON OUR NEW PATH.
DOWNLOADING ERASURE FORMAT OF PAST EMOTIONAL PROGRAMMING.
HER EMOTIONAL MEMORIES ARE MORE THAN A CHIP. IT'S A PART OF HER SYSTEMS FLUID BRILLIANT MOVE ON THE LATE YURI'S PART
WHIRRRRR..
SNAAAT!

YURI..
I-I... REMEMBER... THE BEGINNING...
HE WAS ONLY OUR ONE TIME UNIT LEADER. THAT IS ALL. OUR MISSION WAS TO SAVE MOTHER RUSSIA FROM THOSE THAT WOULD DO HER HARM.
TO SEEK OUT THE ONE THE THREAT
WE WERE TO DESTROY THE INTERLOPER.
IT HAD TO BE DONE WITH OUR OWN HANDS
TARGET WAS LOCATED AT BUILDING C-18, LOCATION 8.
OUR COVERT OPS IN CHERNOBYL DEPENDED ON IT.

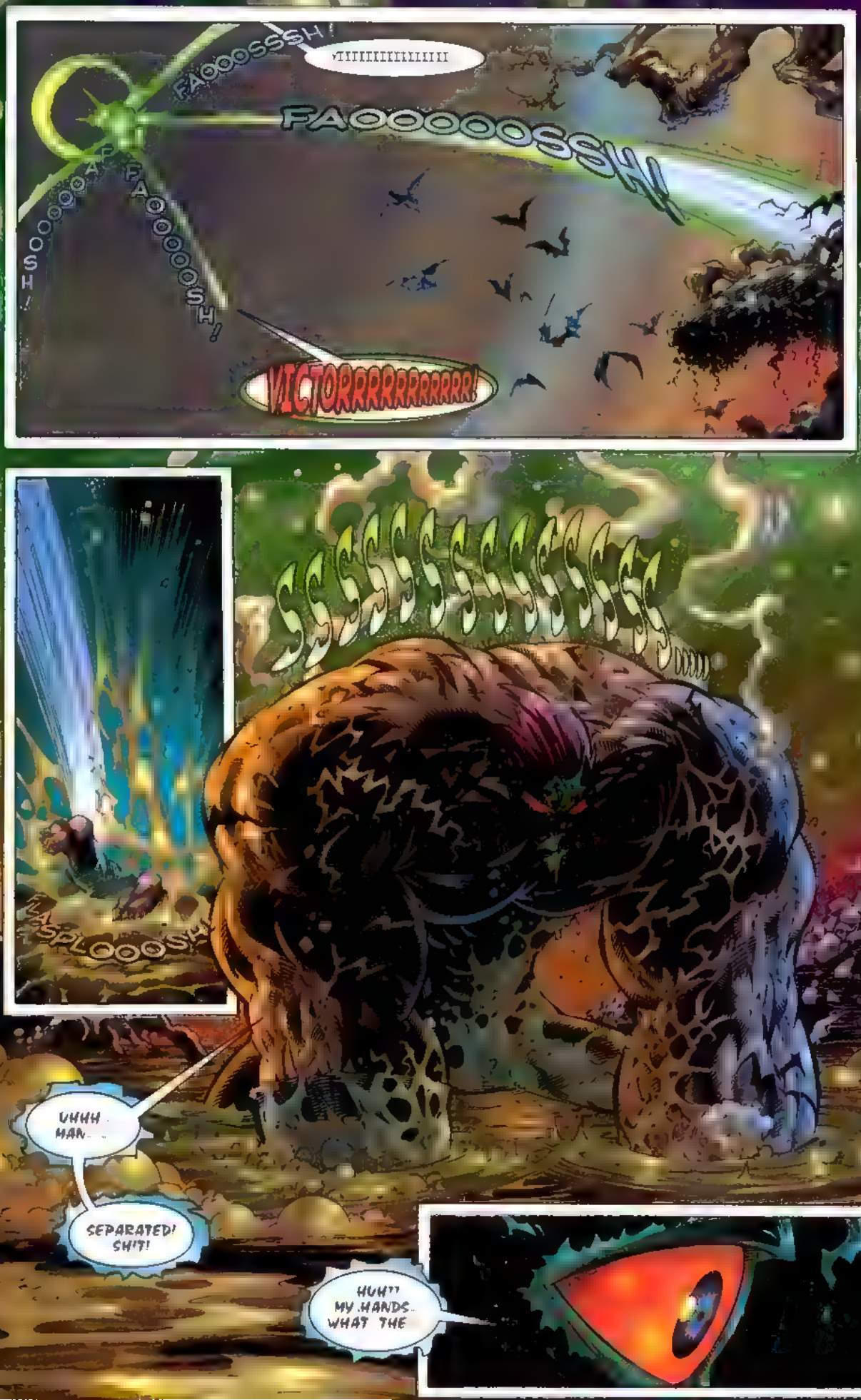

OUR JOB WAS TO SEEK
AND DESTROY

THE INTRUDER HAD OUR SECRETS
HHUUSSHH!
DANGEROUS TO OUR VERY EXISTANCE
OUR SECRETS
THAPP!
OURS ALONE
WHIPPPP!
KREEEESSH!
NO OTHERS
BUUUDAAA!
BUUUDAAA!
UH UHH

THIS .S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN...
GO DOWN DAMN YO!
BADAMM!
BADDAAM!
BAAADAMM!
YES . UHH..IT WILL .UHH HAPPEN
ARGHH! SORRY...JHH' NOT...GOOD... ENOUGH . JHH
FAAAP!
FAAP!
FAAP!
FAAP!
FAAP!
FAAAAP!
CLICK!
CLICK!
NO...
YOU'RE THE LAST ONE. NO WAY AM I GOING TO LET YOU DO THIS.
NO. YOU ARE THE END.
I AM THE BEGINNING.

NO YOU'RE THE FAKE JGHHHH!
SRAAAAK!
WE COULD NOT LISTEN
SHE SPOKE UNTRUTHS AGAINST US
FRAPP!
JGHHH!
SHE WAS A THREAT TO US
WHAAAACK!
SHE MUST NOT
THUUNDD!
CRREEAAAKK!
MISSION SUCCESSFUL
SHE WANTED UNCERTAINTY
SHE SHE ..WAS HUMAN.
SHE WAS ME

TELEPORATION CAN BE DEADLY WHEN YOU END UP IN THE WRONG PLACE
WEEEE EEEE


FAOOOSSSH!
YIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII
FAOOOOOOSSSH!
FAOOOOSH!
FAOOOOSH!
FAOOOOSH!
VICTORRRRRRRRRR!
SSSSSSSSSSS
SPLOOOSH!
UHHH HAN...
SEPARATED! SHIT!
HUH?! MY HANDS. WHAT THE

VINES??
WHAT IS THIS ??
SON.. OF...
AAAA

USE YOUR POWERS, ESPY GIVE ME A BEACON A LIGHT
HURRY, VICTOR. IT'S REALLY DARK HERE.
I'M COMIN'
I'VE GOT A LIGHT SPHERE STARTED, VICTOR
I'LL FIND IT, ESPY
I HOPE SO VICTOR
THERE'S NOTHING HERE, BUT YET I FEEL AS THOUGH I'M NOT ALONE
WE'RE NOT
I THINK I SEE YOUR SIGNAL I'M NOT FAR
I- I.. HEAR SOMETHING COMING. HOW WILL I KNOW IT'S YOU, VICTOR
JUST LOOK FOR THE FRIGGIN' JUNGLE WALKIN' BEHIND ME

REEEEOOW
WHAT IS IT ARUSA??
VICTOR?
OH... OH...
ARUSA, RUN. SCAT
HISSSSS!
IT'S BLACKSPELL...
WHISSSS

AHAAAHH
WE ARE DEFINITELY NOT ALONE
NEXT ISSUE
BLACKOUT!!

Ignition

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THE TENTH

ISSUE 4

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COLORS AND SEPERATIONS

KEN LOPEZ

LETTERS AND FILM

BRANDON MARKHAM

EDITOR

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE...

In issue 3, we found that Rhazes Darkk has returned even darker than before. The kid supermonster known as Gozza was awakened by the grim vision of his vengeful foe and creator, Rhazes Darkk. Gozza, now seeking to permanently take the place of his creator, awaits the confrontation. Meanwhile, our gang has their hands full with the pint-sized teleporter who calls himself Gulliver. Victor, Esperanza and Zorina made a deal with him, asking to be teleported within the body of Blackspell to find Zorina's missing mother. In return, they will help Gulliver in his quest for the destruction of Darkk. Over at Tokyo secret police headquarters, Moto Fujisaki is putting the final touches on his newly acquired secret weapon, Adrenalyn. Erasing her implanted memories is the first step in making this weapon fully operational. Her first objective: search and destroy the abominations that are spreading global chaos, beginning with Gozza.

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I HATE THIS PLACE
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M BACK INSIDE BLACKSPELL. IT FREAKS ME OUT THAT THIS PLACE CAN BE SO UGLY
AND IN SOME WAYS ALMOST . . BEAUTIFUL
UNLIKE MY FIRST VISIT HERE I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.*
*SEE ISSUE #3 OF THE MINI SERIES
I'VE GOT TO FIND MOM. I HAVE TO GET HER OUT THIS TIME
I JUST PRAY THAT SHE IS STILL MY MOM AND NOT THE MONSTER THAT BLACKSPELL TURNED HER INTO LAST TIME
THERE'S A LIGHT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS CLIFF...
PLEASE, GOD PLEASE.

MOM... MOM?
ZORINA... MY BABY!!
ZORINA... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE??
YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE...
I'VE COME TO TAKE YOU OUTTA HERE... MOM?
IF... IF YOU'RE REALLY MY MOM...
OF COURSE I AM, HONEY. COME HERE... LET ME HOLD YOU.
NO!
DON'T TOUCH ME, BLACKSPELL!
JGHH!
ZORINA! HOW DARE YOU HIT YOUR MOTHER!
I AM NOT THAT MONSTER!!
IT'S ME, HONEY... YOUR MOTHER.
MOM??

MOM.
I I MISSED YOU
ELSEWHERE IN THE LIVING HELL KNOWN AS BLACKSPELL
GET THE LITTLE PRETTY
YAAAAAAAOWHH!
HARD TO GET WHEN YOU'RE GUTTED DEMON!
YESSSSSSS
WHIIIIZZZZZZT!
BACK OFF!!!
YAAAAAGHHH

GRRRRRR...
SHOULD'VE NEVER TRUSTED THAT GLOBE TROTTIN' GULLIVER!!
HE REPEATER US... I'M GONNA SQUASH HIM!
I LOST MY TELEPATHIC LINK TO ESPY SHE'D BETTER STILL BE ALIVE...
FOR GULLIVER'S SAKE
WUGHHH!

WELCOME...
TO HELL!
YOUR ARRIVAL HAS BEEN EXPECTED NUMBER TEN
AND I SHALL BE WELL WORTH THE WAIT HEH HEHEH HEH
I HAVE SUCH WONDERFUL PAINFUL PLANS FOR YOU
H.O.GHHHboo
ET'S GET

YOU WILL BE PUNISHED FOR YOUR ACTS OF TREASON AGAINST ME, YOUR CREATOR
BUT FEAR NOT ALL WILL BE AS IT WAS MEANT TO BE
IN DUE TIME
YOU ARE THE FIRST STEP TO MY FREEDOM NUMBER TEN
YOU WILL ALSO BE THE FIRST STEP IN THE NEW GENESIS OF EARTH
AFTER THE REIGN OF MY DARK FORCES ONCE AGAIN
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT DARKK?
SHUT UP, YOU LUMP OF SH%T - RHAZES IS THE MASTER!
AT EASE - HE'LL LEARN EVENTUALLY
DARKK HAS TO TEACH...
WHEN YOU'RE DEAD!
KREEEAAAAAHHH!

YEEHEHEHAH!
CHEW ON THIS, YOU SCAB
WHIZZ CRUNCH!
WHIIRRAAZZZAT!
GO AWAY!!
ARUSA ARUSA
WHERE ARE YOU BABY??
GRUNCHH!!
OH ARUSA ARE YOU OKAY, BABY? IT'S ALRIGHT
REOOW??
WWWSSSP

WELL LOOKEE WHAT WE HAVE HERE...
WELCOME BACK DELICIOUS!
HISSSSSSS!
WHAT'S THIS??
NO!
BLACKSPELL
GRAAAAA!
SCHLATHER!
JUST IN TIME FOR SUPPER...
AND YOU ARE THE APPETIZER!!
RUN, ARUSA... RUN!
REOOW!
REVENGE MIGHT TASTE AWFULLY SWEET!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR LITTLE KITTY, BABY.
I'LL MUNCH ON THAT MEOWING MORSEL WHEN I'M THROUGH WITH YOU! EEHEHEEHH!
GO TO HELL!
I AM HELL!!
ARUSA!!!
ARUSA.. NO!
NO!
HISSSSSSSS!
SKREEEEOOOM!!
NOOOOO!
MEOW
ARUSA YOU'RE OKAY...
HOW DID YOU DO
NOT BAD. SEE YOU TWO CAN HANDLE YOURSELVES PRETTY GOOD
HUH??

BY THE WAY
IT WAS
THANK GODNESS
OOPLE
L

ESPERANZA, LISTEN... I NEED SOMETHING
A FAVOR
WHAT, VICTOR?
YOU SOUND... STRANGE. WHAT'S WRONG?
I NEED
I... I DON'T KNOW, VICTOR. WE NEED YOUR STRENGTH RIGHT NOW. IF YOU'RE HUMAN...
I'M SORRY
I FEEL LIKE MOSIN IT I NEED JUST A DROP TO CALM ME
OKAY
JUST A DROP
FAAADOOOOOOOSH!
WHO...
HUH??
REJOIN

ZORINA, WHAT WENT ON IN SPRINGDALE WAS UTTER MADNESS.
RHAZES DARKK WAS NOT THE SAVIOR THAT THE WORLD THOUGHT HIM TO BE
HE WAS THE MADNESS
WHAT HE DID TO HIS CAPTIVES WAS SO PROFANE SO INHUMAN
NYEEAGGHHHH!
I WAS HELPLESS TO STOP HIM. LIKE MANY OTHERS, I WAS A CAPTIVE TO DARKK'S PERVERSIONS OF SCIENCE A PRISONER
I SAW THE TENTH EXPERIMENT THE MAN NAMED VICTOR THAT YOU SPEAK OF. EXCEPT ONLY I KNEW HIM AS PROJECT GENESIS
IT SICKENED NOT ONLY MY BODY..
BUT MY SOUL AS WELL
UR'KKKK...
HHAUGH!
DIRECTOR JAFFE HE WAS A PART OF THE COVERT GOVERNMENT GROUP "UPROAR", THAT WERE INVESTIGATING DARKK ENTERPRISES.
THEY OFFERED ME THE CHANCE TO UNDO SOME OF THE DAMAGE DONE BY DARKK
AND THEN THEY CAME

MOM, I-I NEVER KNEW YOU WERE IN SO DEEP.
YOU COULDN'T. I WANTED YOU FREE OF THE *POSSIBLE* SIDE EFFECTS THIS COULD HAVE.
INSTEAD I...MADE IT WORSE
WHAT YOU DID WAS SO BRAVE, MOM.
I'M VERY PROUD OF YOU
BUT NOW WE'VE GOTTA GET YOU OUT OF HERE THAT'S WHY I CAME BACK.
ARE YOU READY, MOM?
MOM???
MOM!!
NOOOOOOOOOOOOO!
FAAAAVOOOOOSH!

WHOOAAAAAAAAA!
MOM!!! WHERE DID SHE GO???
WHERE IS SHE????
IT IS TOO LATE. WE HAVE TO LEAVE I SENSE THE EVIL.
SO CLOSE
2:15 AM
NORTHWESTERN
NIGHT SHIFT IN CADAVER LAND
ME, PATRICK DESTIN, MINISTER OF THE MORGUE. MED STUDENT EXTRODINAIRE
HOME WORK UP THE YING YANG UGH
SHIFFFTT!
HUH??
OH BOY
PAAANG!

OH..GEEZ SOMETHIN' IS MOVIN' IN THERE
CA-DAANG!!
TAP!
TAP!
TAP!
AW, MAN... THIS IS LIKE.. SCREAM III.
KA-TAAP!
AWW
THAAP!
EYIIII!
HEY! I DON'T KNOW YOU FROM SQUAT!
I'M ON SHIFT HERE AND I NEED TO SEE .
IT'S OKAY, PATRICK. LET THEM DO THEIR WORK.
HEY, DUDE, YOU ABOUT BROKE MY HAND!
WHO ARE YOU??
WE'RE FROM THE CENTER OF DISEASE CONTROL.
THIS IS A QUARANTINE. YOU MUST LEAVE THIS FLOOR NOW FOR YOUR OWN SAFTEY.

PLEASE CONTINUE WITH YOUR WORK GENTLEMEN IF WE CAN BE OF SOME ASSISTANCE, LET US KNOW.

THERE IS NO BODY HERE??
SOMETHIN' IN THERE
REERRYYK!

QUIET LISTEN
SHIEEEEEEEEE...

CREEHH
REEHHHHHH
HEH I'M WOUND UP TIGHT

SLAAAAASH!
FRAAAAT-T-T!
YEEEEEEEEE!

AND LOOKIN' FOR A FIGHT!!!
YYAAAAAAAAAAHH!
TORCH HIM!
FADOOSH!
HE KILLED MCGEE
AFFIRMATIVE
NNEEAAHH!
SSSSSSSSSSS
THONK!

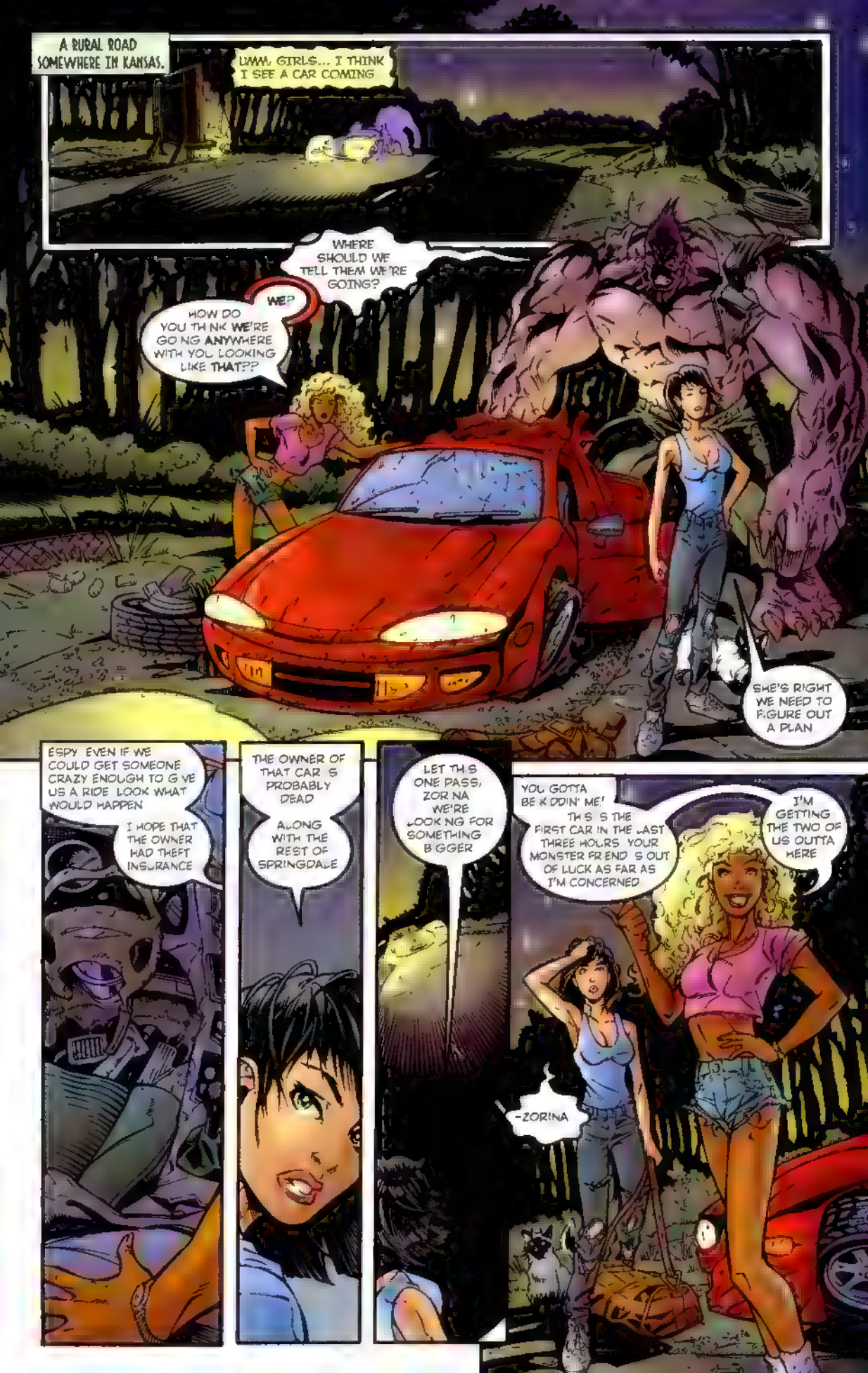
YOU TWO MUST KEEP THIS REMOVAL ON A PRIORITY-ONE SILENCE
WE DO NOT WANT TO CAUSE A PUBLIC ALARM.
UGGH! THIS GUY MUST WEIGH ABOUT 300 POUNDS!
WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THAT, DOC? EBOLA VIRUS?
I'M NOT SURE, PATRICK.
AWW, MAN.. MORE VISITORS FROM THE CDC?
STRANGE
C.D.C.
C.D.C.
SSCREECH!
DOCTOR MOBLEY, WE'RE WITH THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL. HERE'S MY IDENTIFICATION.
WE'RE HERE FOR A QUARANTINE.
THEN WHO THE HELL WERE THE GUYS THAT JUST LEFT?
FAAAOOOOOSH!

TOKYO JAPAN
THE SUBWAY
SSSSSCREEEEEEEEEECH!
DID YOU SEE THAT?? SOMEBODY MUSTA CUT THE CHEESE! HARHAR
HARH HARH HARH
GULLIVER???
I KNOW! I KNOW!
IT'S MY ALLERGIES .. THEY CAN MESS UP MY NAVIGATION AT TIMES
I THINK I'VE GOT IT THIS TIME
ANYONE HAVE ANY ADVIL??

THE VILLAGE OF YAKU JAPAN
<LOOK! IT IS TIME!>*
*TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE
<IT COMES.>
<GO TO THE COMMUNICATIONS HUT. CONTACT HIM. HE MUST KNOW.>
TOKYO JAPAN
"I KNEW SETTING UP THE REMOTE VILLAGES WITH TRANSMOBILE COMMUNICATIONS WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO."
"PREPARE THE AIR CRUISER. WE MUST ACT QUICKLY."
A MYSTERIOUS BLACK MIST TOOK THAT LAST VILLAGE I DON'T WANT THAT TO BE THE CASE THIS TIME.
READY HER FOR FIELD RELEASE
THAT SAME MIST LEFT NO BODIES
IT TOOK EVERYTHING.
BEGIN BRIEFING CASE WORK ADRENALYNN.

MOM!!!
SHE DIDN'T MAKE IT TO THE TELEPORTATION... WHERE IS SHE?
WHERE'S GULLIVER??
SEE IF YOU CAN HOLD UP, ZORINA. WE'VE GOT COMPANY
WELCOME TO JAPAN, MY FRIENDS
JH OH.
LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER PIECE OF THE PUZZLE. A SMALL PIECE
TO BE CONTINUED

WIZARD
NO.
1/2
THE
TENTH
TONY DANIEL


A RURAL ROAD SOMEWHERE IN KANSAS.
UMM, GIRLS... I THINK I SEE A CAR COMING
WHERE SHOULD WE TELL THEM WE'RE GOING?
WE?
HOW DO YOU TH NK WE'RE GO NG ANYWHERE WITH YOU LOOKING LIKE THAT??
SHE'S RIGHT WE NEED TO FIGURE OUT A PLAN
ESPY EVEN IF WE COULD GET SOMEONE CRAZY ENOUGH TO G VE US A RIDE LOOK WHAT WOULD HAPPEN
I HOPE THAT THE OWNER HAD THEFT INSURANCE
THE OWNER OF THAT CAR S PROBABLY DEAD
ALONG WITH THE REST OF SPRINGDALE
LET TH S ONE PASS, ZOR NA WE'RE LOOK NG FOR SOMETHING B GGER
YOU GOTTA BE K DDIN' ME! TH S S THE FIRST CAR IN THE LAST THREE HOURS YOUR MONSTER FR END S OUT OF LUCK AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED
I'M GETTING THE TWO OF US OUTTA HERE
-ZORINA

SSSSHHH! JUST LET ME DO THE TALKING

YOU TWO YOUNG LADIES LOOK LIKE Y'ALL IN NEED OF SOME HELP

NEED A LIFT?

FLIK!

WHY, THAT'S MIGHTY HOSPITABLE OF YA

WE SURE CAN USE ONE RIGHT ABOUT NOW

HEE HEE!

GOSH, WELL HOW FAR ARE Y'ALL GOIN'?

AS FAR AS YOU'LL TAKE US, MISTER.

HUH?! I-I-I-

IIIIIIIIIII.!!

SHRIIIIIIIK

UHH WAS IT SOMETHING I SAID?

NICE GOIN', GRUESOME YOU CAN AT LEAST BE CONSIDERATE OF US GALS

JUST TRYING TO HELP

HARHARHAR!

THINK WE CAN MANAGE WITHOUT YOUR HELP NOW

ZOR NA. WHAT ARE YOU MAD AT ANYWAY?? THAT GUY WAS A **CREEP**!

HMPH! I 'VE SEEN WORSE!

TALK ABOUT **UNGRATEFUL!**

C'MON GUYS. WE NEED TO STICK TOGETHER HERE WE'VE MADE IT **THIS** FAR

EVERYBODY JUST STAND BACK AND LET ME DO MY **THANG**

OKAY PEOPLE --LET'S NOT BLOW THIS OPPORTUNITY TOO

JEEZUS CHR ST! CUT IT OUT, Z! DO YOU WANT TO ATTRACT THE SAME KIND OF PERVERT AS BEFORE?!

HEY!!

ZORINA'S RIGHT, ESPY .I'M HOLDING YOU GUYS BACK THERE'S NO NEED FOR MY PROTECTION THIS FAR FROM SPRINGDALE

YOU SAVED OUR LIVES THE LEAST WE CAN DO IS FIND YOU SOME HELP

NOW TAKE COVER I'LL SIGNAL WHEN T'S SAFE TO COME OUT

GREAT

THE FUZZ

"HOWDY, LADIES .LOOKS LIKE A REAL JAM YOU'RE IN S'OKAY IF WE GIVE YOU A HAND?"

THAT'S REALLY N CE OFFICER, BUT THERE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THERE'S ENOUGH ROOM FOR US
HOGWASH!
WHY, I'LL JUST GIT IN THE BACK WITH BARKELY
BARKELY'S OUR CANINE
OH, THAT'S OKAY, OFF CER ZORINA WILL GET IN THE BACK SHE'S QU TE SICK AND REALLY CONTAGIOUS
ACTUALLY, I FEEL F--
OOMF!
REALLY, OFFICERS --SHE INSISTS!
THANKS, ESPY. YOU'RE A REAL PAL.
ZORINA, PLEASE JUST GO ALONG WITH THIS
I PROMISE I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU
K9
ISN'T THERE A DOG N THERE? HOW S HE NOT SUPPOSED TO BARK AT A NINE FOOT RAISIN W TH FANGS?
EASY
INSTEAD OF BARK NG, HE'LL BE BUSY CHEWING
THESE BEEF JERKEYS CAME IN HANDY!
SHER
THIS PLACE ISN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR THE TWO OF US!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW YOU TWO WILL MANAGE
OKAY-- COME ON OUT!

SKRT! SCHLUMPH!
I NOTICED YOUR CAR HAD COLORADO PLATES. YOU AWARE THERE WAS A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION IN THAT CREEPY TOWN, SPRINGDALE?
THE WHOLE PLACE JUST SUNK INTO THE EARTH "TERRORISTS", THEY SAY
SHERIFF
Welcome to Mistberry
I ALWAYS DID THINK THAT TOWN WAS DESTINED FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT
THAT MAN "DARKK"--HE PLAYS WITH NATURE. MOTHER NATURE DOESN'T LIKE TO BE MESSED WITH
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN THROUGH THERE, HAVE YOU?
NO, WHY?
QUARANTINED
"--JUST ABOUT THE WHOLE DARN STATE"
REALLY? WHY?
PROBABLY BECAUSE OF ALL OF THOSE SPOOKY TESTS THEY WERE PERFORMIN' UP THERE
WHO KNOWS WHAT KIND OF NEW BREEDS OF GERMS AND DISEASES LEAKED OUT
"I BETCHA IT WOULD BOGGLE OUR MINDS THE KIND OF EXPERIMENT N' THEY DID UP THERE"

OH I'M SORRY --I'M PROBABLY FRIGHTENING YOU

PLEASE, SIR- IT'S FINE I DON'T GET SCARED EASILY

THAT'S A WEIRD LOOKIN' STORM UP AHEAD OF US, DON

I'LL SAY IT'S PITCH BLACK!

I DON'T REMEMBER HEARING ANY REPORTS OF RAIN

THAT'S BECAUSE IT AIN'T RAIN!

MY GOD- IT LOOKS LIKE OIL!

WE'D BETTER STEP ON IT--THAT RADIATION IS BLOWING THROUGH HERE QUICKER THAN WE THOUGHT

SCRREEEEEE!!

GREAT!

PERFECT TIMING FOR A BLOWOUT

WE'D BEST PULL OVER

DAGGONNIT! --THESE TIRES WERE NEW!
LOOKS LIKE THAT BLACK RAM HAS TRAVELED PAST US ALREADY
LET'S CHANGE THIS TIRE IN A HURRY SO WE CAN GET OUR HIDE OUTTA HERE
K9
DON GO CHECK ON THE YOUNG LADY IN THE BACK
OH--AND GET THE JACK AND THE SPARE TIRE
HOLD ON A MINUTE--
I'LL GO GET THE SPARE OUT FROM THE BACK
SQUISHH
SQUISHH
THAT'S MIGHTY NICE OF YOU TO OFFER YOUR HELP, MISS, BUT THE DEPUTY AND I CAN MANAGE JUST FINE
I'LL GET YOUR FRIEND TO COME OUT AND KEEP YOU COMPANY
THIS SHOULD ONLY TAKE BUT A MINUTE
NO!
WAIT SHERIFF!
TH-THERE'S SOMETHING I GOTTA TELL YOU--
SQUISHH
SQUISHH
SQUISHH
REEAOOOOW!!
WHAT IN GOD'S NAME?!
--BEHIND YOU!

OHMIGOD!!
VICTOR!!!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!!
STEP AWAY FROM THE VEHICLE!
HISSSSS!

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET!

KRASH!

YIIII!!

B-B-B-B-B-

-B-B-B-

--B-B-B--

B-B-BBB--

EASY, BIG GUY--

DON'T WASTE YOUR BULLETS ON ME--

ALREADY THERE!

DON'T WORRY- I'LL KEEP DEPUTY DOG BACK HERE WHILE YOU CHECK ON ESP--

HELLPP!

VICTOR!!

AA CHK!

CHRIST!

I THOUGHT WE BLEW ALL OF YOU TAR FACED GOONIES UP!

I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO BE A LITTLE MORE ***CREATIVE*** IN RIPPIN' YOUR HEADS OFF!

SKREE!

SKREE!

SKREE!

HEY!!

WATCH YOUR BACK!!

!

YOU GUYS ARE NOTH NG BUT YAPPING MOUNDS OF ROTTEN FLESH!

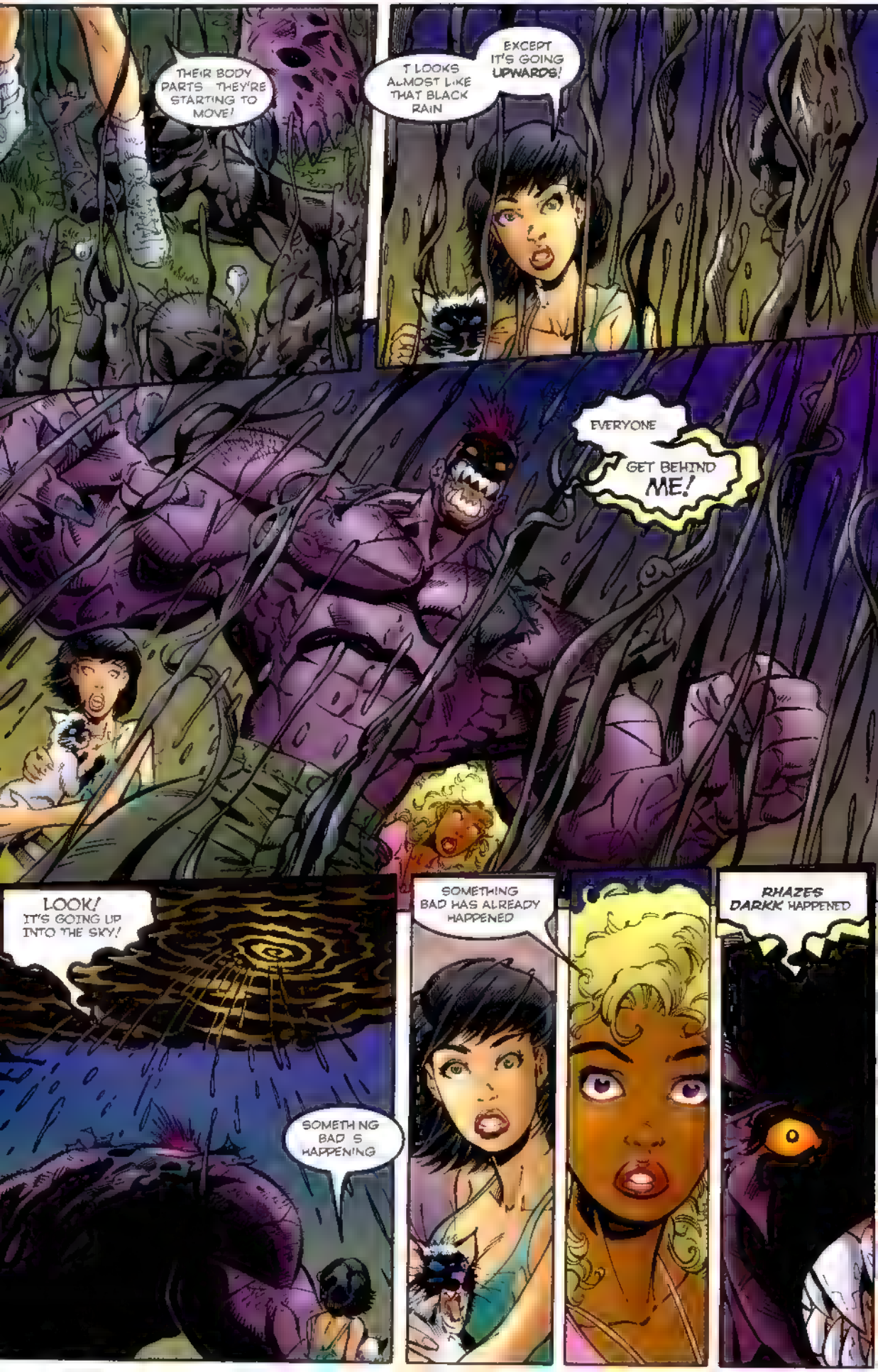
SHPOWW

SKREEEE!

THAT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE ALREADY DEAD!
ARGGH!
THEY JUST NEED A REMINDER!
RAAAAAAGHH!
STAND BACK, VICTOR
I'M GOING TO BLOW THESE GUYS--
--AWAAAY!!!
WHOA!

UHMM. SORRY ABOUT THAT
NO PROBLEM
LET'S GET THE HECK OUT OF THIS DEATH TRAP
SKREE!
--AFTER I TAKE CARE OF THIS GUY!
SKREE! SKREE!
YOU TWO AREN'T THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN FIGHT

I THINK THEY'VE HAD ENOUGH
UH--I TH'NK I'M GO NG TO BE SICK
WELL I HAVEN'T! I ST'LL HAVE SOME SHELLS LEFT AND I'M GONNA USE THEM!
HEY GUYS-- DO YOU SEE WHAT I'M SEE NG?


THEIR BODY PARTS... THEY'RE STARTING TO MOVE!
IT LOOKS ALMOST LIKE THAT BLACK RAIN
EXCEPT IT'S GOING UPWARDS!
EVERYONE GET BEHIND ME!
LOOK! IT'S GOING UP INTO THE SKY!
SOMETH NG BAD S HAPPENING
SOMETHING BAD HAS ALREADY HAPPENED
RHAZES DARKK HAPPENED

THE SHERIFF'S DEAD HOW'S THE DEPUTY?
EWW! DEAD DEFINITELY DEAD!
WHAT NOW?
I DON'T WANT YOU TWO GIRLS TO SEE WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO
TRY TO UNDERSTAND I NEED THEIR BLOOD BEFORE IT COAGULATES
YOU SICKO!
HOW GROSS DO YOU GET? YOU'RE GOING TO SUCK THEIR BLOOD DRY?!
ZORINA HE HAS TO
IT'S THE ONLY WAY HE CAN CONTROL THE BEAST
"HE DOESN'T HAVE A CHOICE"

IN THE END IT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER
WHAT MATTERS IS THAT WE CAN GET TO SAFETY... AND WARN THE REST OF THE WORLD OF WHAT ALMOST HAPPENED HERE.
ILLINOIS
300 MILES
...AND HOPEFULLY KEEP IT FROM HAPPENING AGAIN
THE END

THE
TENTH
image
JAN
5
2.50
CANADA
DANIEL
BEAU
LIVESAY
CRAWFORD
MOUNTS
DIRECT SALES
00511
7 09853 11006 4

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WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE...

In issue 4, the TENTH met his maker, SHAZES DARKK. In ZORINA finally finds her mother, who was kidnapped by BLACKSPELL (issue #2 of the miniseries). ESPERANZA, on the other hand, is rescued from a giant tree monster by her pet cat Arusa! Meanwhile in Chicago, officials from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) drop by the County Morgue to "quarantine" a body. That body was that of LASTIC, one of the first prototypes from the U.S. Government's secret new Anti-Terrorist Division (ATD). However, after "removal" and evacuation of the body, the County Morgue was visited a second time by another group of men, claiming also to be from the CDC. We left off with ESPY, TENTH, and ZORINA being teleported to a small village somewhere in Japan, where they have their first encounter with the child supermonster known as GOZZA.

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THIS IS MERELY THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM.
THE DARKK STORM.
THE FAULT DOES NOT LIE ON MY SHOULDERS. IT WAS HE, THE DARK ONE, THAT BROUGHT THE DAWN OF DESTRUCTION UPON THE NILLAGE.
IT WAS HIS WISH, HIS DESIRE TO CHANGE THE ENTIRE ECO- SYSTEM. TWIST IT INTO SOMETHING THAT HE WOULD FIND USEFUL.
NOT ME.
HE CREATED..TRAPPED ME..JUST LIKE YOU. I WAS MADE A PAWN IN HIS SICK GAME OF GENETICS.
LIKE YOU, I DIDN'T ASK FOR IT.
I JUST WANTED TO BELONG. TO FIT IN.
TO BE A PART OF A FAMILY.

BUT I DO NOT WANT TO BE A PART OF HIS FAMILY. HIS DARKNESS FAMILY.

THE OTHERS, THEY *EMBRACED* IT. THEY FOUND COMFORT IN CALLING HIM FATHER... NOT I.

AND TRUST ME...THERE ARE OTHERS... THEY *SHARE* HIS INSANE AND ANCIENT DEAS.

BUT OF ALL HIS CREATIONS NONE COMPARE WITH THE PURITY OF HIS OWN EVIL... HIS OWN DARKNESS.

EACH WAS CREATED AND HAVE THEIR PURPOSE JUST AS I DO.

AND YOU.

ALL OF THESE *PURPOSES*... THESE *GOALS*....TRANSMUTE INTO PHAZES DARKK'S OWN GRAND SCHEME.

TO CREATE--

DARKK-EARTH!

ME--THE OTHER--
SUPERMONSTERS,
MUST STOP HIM.
BLACKSPELL AND RHAZES HAVE FORMED A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP. DARKK'S TENTACLES OF EVIL HAVE EXPANDED.
YOU SPIN A GOOD TALE, BUT HOW MUCH OF THAT STORY IS THE TRUTH?
YOU SAID EVERYONE HAD A PURPOSE. WHAT IS VICTOR'S PURPOSE?
WHO SLIPPED ON THE SOAP AND MADE YOU THE KING OF TRUTH?
I THOUGHT HIS PURPOSE SHOULD HAVE BEEN TO FREE MY MOM WHEN WE WERE INSIDE OF BLACKSPELL.
DON'T LET HIS CHILD-LIKE APPEARANCE DISTRACT YOU.
INSIDE? YOU WERE INSIDE OF BLACKSPELL??
HE'S A SUPERMONSTER. NOT TO BE TRUSTED.

YES HE IS, VICTOR, BUT THEN, SO ARE YOU.
HISSSS...
LISTEN...
WHO GOES THERE!
DO YOU HEAR THAT? CAN YOU FEEL IT?
COLD...
YES... I DO.
UH--I DON'T HEAR ANYTHING, GUYS.
LISTEN TO ME...
IT'S NOTHING!
YES YES IT IS.
IT'S DARKK. RHAZES DARKK!

LITTLE BASTARD!
VVVRAAAAZZZZ!
UGHHHHHH!
VICTOR...
NOOO!
YOU AND YOUR LIES MUST BE SILENCED
IT S YOU!
YOU KNOW I CANNOT TOUCH YOU LIKE THIS.
TENTH... BACK OFF.. NOW!!
YOU BACK OFF....

BITCH!!
VRAAAZZZTT!
WLAAGGHH!
GRAAAAACCEE!!
KRIIIIIIIEEEEEEEEE!
YEWAARH!
VIIIIZZZZZT!
HIDE AND SEEK S A CHILD'S GAME, DARKK.
AND YOU ARE NO CHILD!
COME OUT, COME OUT...WHOEVER YOU ARE
VICTOR??
HE S NOT VICTOR...
I DON'T CARE WHO HE IS. .KICK HIS ASS!!
UGHHHH.

WUGH...
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?!
WUAGH... AGGGGGH!
BRUUUUUGH....
IT'S DARKK!
OHMYGOD! LOOK AT HIS PUKE!
THAT'S NOT PUKE...IT'S ALIVE!
WORSE THAN THAT....

MASTER-IT WORKED!
HEAHAHAHAHHHEEHEHEAHAHA!
TIME TO GET...
BACK IN BLACK!
I KNEW THAT SOMETHING WAS NOT RIGHT
JUST LIKE YOUR TWISTED AND RUSTED MIND, RHAZES!
AAAARHHGG! I AM FREE!
AND IN THE COMPANY OF TWO OF MY MOST PRIZED CREATIONS
AND NOW WORST ENEMIES.
I WILL SILENCE YOUR BLASPHEMOUS TONGUE FOREVER, GOZZA!

A TASK YOU WILL HAVE TO ACHIEVE... FROM HELL
FOOOOOOOOOSH!!!!
AAGHHHH!!
YOU YOU DARE USE THE POWERS I GAVE YOU AGAINST ME??
I DARE.. AND I DO!
YOU HAVE FELT FIRE...
NOW FEEL ICE!
WHOOOOOOSH!
AND EMBRACE
CREEAAAAAK
DEATH
KRAAAAAAK!!!

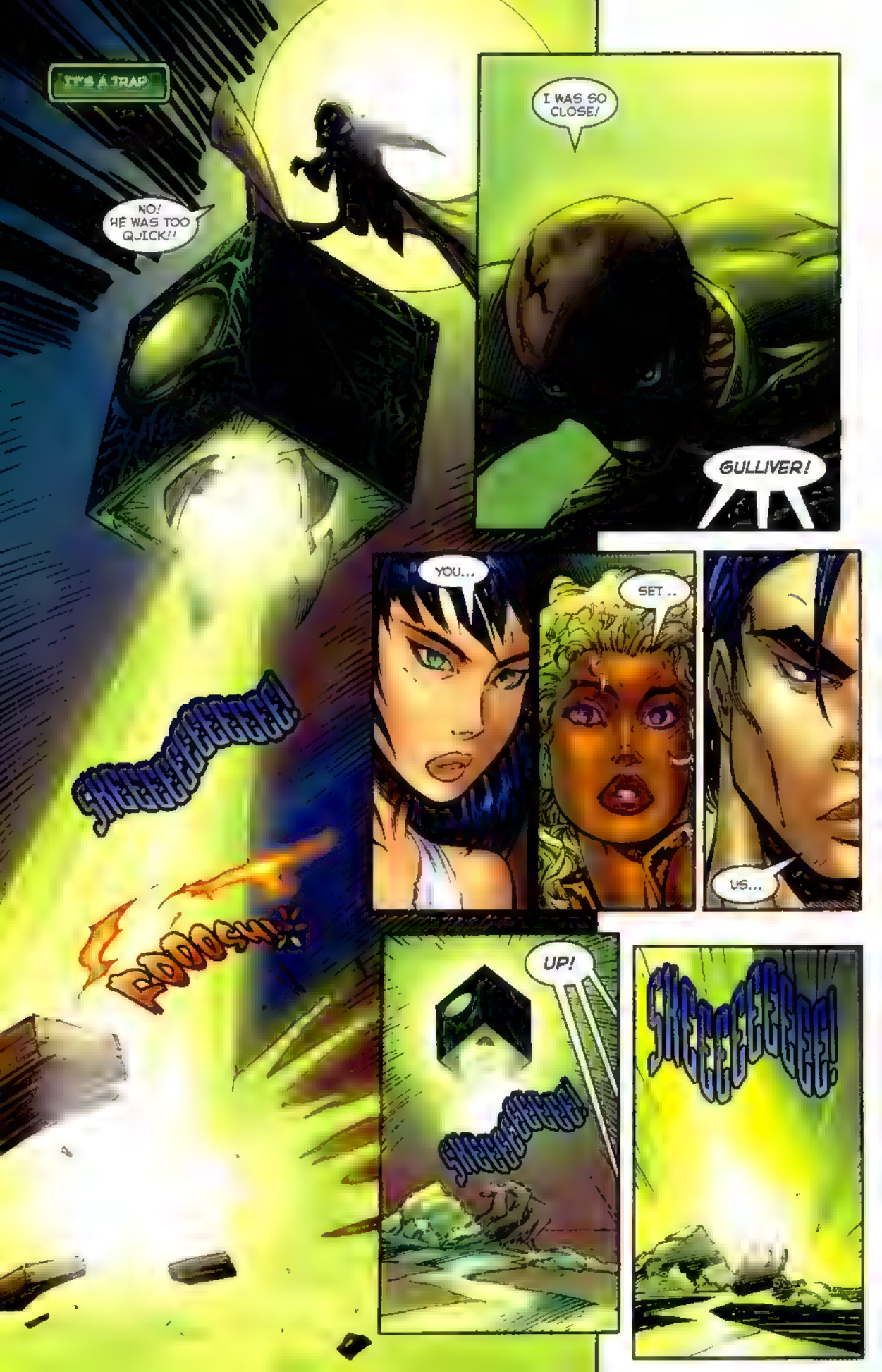
UGHH!
WHAAACK!
NOOOOOO!
STAND AWAY FROM THE MASTER, FOOLS!
YOU WILL ALL PAY DEARLY FOR THIS CRIME!!
I'M REALLY SICK OF YOUR $H!T, FREAK SHOW.
I WILL STRIP THE TISSUE FROM YOUR BODIES AND HAVE YOU DROWN IN YOUR OWN BLOOD!

SURPRISE! SURPRISE! SURPRISE!
REEEEOW!
WHAAAALLLLT!!
TTCCCCAAAAHW!
UHHHHH,,, ESPY . HE'S THROWING IT BACK AT US!
HOW?????
SUCK ON THIS!!
THIS AIN'T YOUR DADDY'S BLACKSPELL, BABY
I'M NEW AND IMPROVED!
WHO'S SUCKIN' NOW?
MY BLAST BOUNCED OFF OF H M LIKE RUBBER!
YOU DON'T DIS THE DARKK!
YYYHEHEEHEH!
ESPY .. I DON'T LIKE THIS.
EVERYBODY. GET READY TO HEAD OUT.. IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S ABOUT TO .

END OF THE LINE SUGAR!
HOW SWEET IT IS... HHEHEEHEHEH!
UHHHH!!
REEEOOOOW!
BUUUCLEELKRRR...
YESSSSSS... UH..AACCKK!
WHA
GREEAAKKK!
HE'S TURNING TO ICE! JUST LIKE RHAZES DID!
GREEAAAKKK!
REOOW!
VRRAAZZ!!
NRRRRAAAANNN!
NOW I CAN BREAK FREE!
WE ARE ON THE SAME SIDE, ESPERANZA.
GOZZA WHAT THE HELL DID YOU DO?!
MY MOTHER IS IN THERE!!!

I DIDN'T ASK FOR THIS.
I WAS ALL ALONE.
HE... DARKK... MADE ME THIS WAY.
I JUST WANTED A FAM.LY. TO BELONG.
TO BE NORMAL.
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
MORE THAN YOU KNOW.
OH, MY....MOM! MOM!
MOM..SOB .. I'M..SOB...SO...SOBB.. SORRY..
OH, ZORINA.. .../

I'M SO SORRY.
SOB... SOB....
WHY, VICTOR.. WHY DID IT HAVE TO END THIS WAY?
IT'S NOT OVER YET, ESPY.
IS IT, GOZZA?
NO.
IT'S NOT.
IT'S FAR FROM OVER.
I KNOW WHY WE ARE HERE
WOOOOBBBB...
WOOOOBBB...
POOOSH


IT'S A TRAP!
NO! HE WAS TOO QUICK!!
I WAS SO CLOSE!
GULLIVER!
YOU...
SET ..
US...
SHEEEEEEEEEE!
FOOOSH!!
UP!
SHEEEEEEEEEE!
SHEEEEEEEEEE!

YOU ROTTEN LITTLE BASTARD!
YOU KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN. YOU KNEW!
MY MOTHER IS DEAD BECAUSE OF YOU!
OK, MUNCHKIN... GET JS OUT OF HERE..
NOW!
I REALIZE YOU ARE UPSET, BUT SO MUCH MORE IS AT STAKE HERE.
PLEASE... STAND BACK FROM BLACKSPELL...
YES OF COURSE, BUT FIRST I MUST COLLECT THE FROZEN REMAINS OF BLACKSPELL AND DARKK.
THEY MUST BE ABSORBED WITHIN THE TALAS.
YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD JS, GULLIVER.
HE COULDN'T
CHICAGO.
SUNRISE.

MS. BAHAREH TELLS ME THAT YOU ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS FROM THE ACQUIRED TECHNOLOGY, GENERAL GREER.
IT IS OBVIOUS THAT YOUR PEOPLE WERE ERRONEOUS IN THEIR WORK.
MY PEOPLE DO NOT MAKE MISTAKES, MR. AUSTIN.
THE DNA BLUEPRINTS BAHAREH SOLD US ARE FLAWED.
THAT CANNOT BE TOLERATED.
SEE HERE, GENERAL, OUR END OF THE BARGAIN IS BEYOND REPROACH.
I DON'T ADVISE YOU TO QUESTION MS. BAHAREH.
I STRONGLY SUGGEST YOU CURB YOU TONGUE, MR. AUSTIN.
I MIGHT MISTAKE THAT FOR A THREAT
AND I AM NOT A MAN TO BE THREATENED.
THUDDD!
UNDERSTOOD?
YES, GENERAL. I- I SEE YOUR POINT
GULP
I WILL SPEAK TO MS. BAHAREH AND...
I WILL SPEAK TO HER, PERSONALLY.
I WILL NO LONGER DEAL WITH HER UNDERLINGS.
GRRRR...
OH... MAN..

DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?
SLAAAAASH!
REEAAGH!
YESSSSSSSSSS!
SWEERIIIIPPP!
FROM NOW ON I WILL DEAL WITH BAHAREH... IN PERSON.
MAAAGGHHH!
REEEAGHH!
SLLAAAAAAAASH!
RRAAHHHHH!

VVRRIISSSH!
OH .. MY...
THUD!
OKAY, GREER... DEAL WITH ME.
BRRAAAAAAPPP!!!

JAPAN.
HMMM...
WHAT'S THIS?
SNIFF! SNIFF!
JUST WHAT I THOUGHT.
ADRENALYNN, PREPARE FOR PICK UP
WHOOOPPPP!
WHOOOOPP!
AFFIRMATIVE I AM...
EH?
WOORDUMMM...
YES.
WOOORDUUM...
WE HAVE SCANNED A DISRUPTIVE BLIP, ADRENALYNN PLEASE STEP AWAY FROM IT
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO OVER RIDE THE RETRIEVAL.
I'VE GOT A NEW MISSION LINK
WOOORDUUUM...
NEGATIVE, ADRENALYNN DO NOT ENGAGE DO NOT ENGAGE!

CONTACT... ...
WOOOORRRUUZZZZZZ!
MADE.
TO BE CONTINUED

Ripclaw
image
FEB
2.50
6
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BEAU
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THE TENTH

ISSUE 6

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LETTERS AND FILM

[illegible]

EDITOR

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE...

In the previous issue, Esperanza, Victor and Zorina were tricked by Gulliver, the teleporter, into thinking they were to do battle with Blackspell the living vortex and the evil Rhazes Darkk in Japan. They instead found a child supermonster, Gozza, who convinced the trio that he was just a misfit trying to find his place in society. We later learned that Victor (aka the Tenth) was transporting, inside his own soul, Blackspell and Darkk. This was to be Rhazes' escape from within the bowels of his self-made prison. During the height of the battle, Gulliver teleports himself to the scene to imprison Blackspell, Darkk, and Gozza into his Talas. Unsuccessful at this, he finds our heroes very upset at the fact that they were used as bait to lure the three supermonsters to the same place, putting their lives in tremendous jeopardy. The fact that Gozza says "It's a trap" before his escape has implications that he and Gulliver possibly set the whole situation up, including the release of Rhazes Darkk. The only good that came of this meeting was the capture of Blackspell, and the release of Zorina's mother's soul from his eternal labyrinth. However, the possibility still exists that not even Blackspell was fully captured, since all that was consumed by the Talas was his icy remains.

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AUSTIN TEXAS
FIVE YEARS AGO.
I REMEMBER HOW IT WAS.
I NEVER LOOKED FOR TROUBLE...
KLAAANK!
BUT SOMEHOW...
THUNK!
SEEMED LIKE I WAS ALWAYS RUNNING.
IT ALWAYS FOUND ME.
GOIN' SOMEWHERE, "BEWITCHED"?
WE JUST WANNA GIVE YOU A LITTLE "MAKE OVER"
NOT GOOD.
UH!
OOH!
UGHH!
SPLAAAT!!
HEH-HEH-HEH!
SPLAT!
SPLAT!
WHY DON'T YOU RIDE OFF ON YOUR BROOM, WITCH??
AND ALWAYS WITH THE SAME RESULTS

ALWAYS THE TAUNTS . THE TORMENT.
REMINDING ME .I WAS DIFFERENT
COME ON, ESPY .. CAST A SPELL!!
YEAH... FLY AWAY!!
BUT IT WAS ON THAT DAY THAT I GREW TIRED.
TIRED OF THE LAUGHTER, THE TAUNTS, THE TORMENT.
I WOULD TAKE IT NO MORE.
NO...
YOU FLY AWAY
SEE YA TOMORROW.
BUT, LIKE THEY SAY, FOR EVERY ACTION THERE'S A REACTION
I FOUND THAT OUT WHEN I GOT HOME.
WHAT???
MY ESPERANZA DID WHAT??

IT WAS THE LAST STRAW FOR MY MOM AND DAD.
WHAT HAVE WE TOLD YOU, ESPERANZA? YOU HAVE A SPECIAL GIFT! IT IS NOT A WEAPON!
YOU COULD'VE KILLED SOMEONE! WE CAN'T AFFORD TO MOVE AGAIN!
I KNOW I'M SORRY, MR DOBBS.
B-BUT.. THEY...
THEY WERE PUSHED TOO FAR.
YES SIR... I UNDERSTAND HOW SERIOUS IT IS... YES...
THEY HURT ME!!! IT'S NOT MY FAULT....
I WAS PUSHED TOO FAR.
NOT YOUR FAULT?? WHOSE FAULT DO YOU THINK IT IS?? SOMETIMES I THINK THEY'RE RIGHT!
TEXAS IS A BIG STATE , BUT WE ARE RUNNING OUT OF CITIES. THIS CAN'T GO ON, YOUNG LADY . UNDERSTAND??
BUT....THEY... SOB.. SOB ..
IT WASN'T .. MY. SOB ..FAULT. ... THEY CALLED ME A .. WITCH..
EMOTIONS... CONTROL... THE STRAIN....
NO.
NO.
AAAA

AND THEN .. ...IT WAS OVER.
ALL OVER.
THEY WERE DEAD.
TOO YOUNG TO TAKE THE MOUNTING PRESSURE .
TOO YOUNG...TO BE ALONE.
NO
MEEOW
MY MIND WAS FROZEN IN THE HORROR OF THE MOMENT.
HALF OF MY LIFE LAY BEFORE ME DEAD.. BY MY OWN HAND.
THE OTHER HALF I TOOK DEEP WITHIN MYSELF
I DIDN'T SPEAK TO ANYONE FOR 6 MONTHS.
JAENA AND ZORINA WERE FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY AND HAD BEEN FOR MANY YEARS.
THEY WANTED ME TO COME TO CHICAGO AND LIVE WITH THEM.
CAT on BOARD
THEY HELPED ME BURY MY FAMILY.
AND KEPT ME FROM BURYING MY FEELINGS TOO DEEP.

NOW...
...WE BURY ANOTHER.
JAENA WAS LIKE A SECOND MOTHER TO ME.
LIKE MY OWN PARENTS, I CAN'T HELP FEELING I WAS A PART OF THE CAUSE.
IT'S ALL LIKE A STRANGE PUZZLE.
ALL THE PIECES ARE MEANT TO GO TOGETHER, BUT EACH ONE AFFECTS THE OTHER, SO THAT THE LOOK OF THE PUZZLE IS ALWAYS CHANGING
GOOD-BYE, JAENA... ..I'M SORRY.
AT LEAST ZORINA WILL HAVE HER OWN SENSE OF CLOSURE. SHE NO LONGER WILL HAVE TO THINK OF HER MOTHER IN THE LIVING HELL KNOWN AS BLACKSPELL.
SHE WILL BE IN A FAR BETTER PLACE NOW.
I KNOW THE EFFECTS OF ALL THIS HAVE TAKEN THEIR TOLL ON VICTOR AS WELL.
HE TRIES TO KEEP IT ALL IN AS HE WAS TRAINED TO DO.
BUT ALL THE CHANGES HE HAS ENDURED MUST BE EATING AT HIM. HAVING DARKK IN HIM AND NOT TO MENTION THE FACT HE HAS NOT CRAVED BLOOD IN DAYS.
I CAN SEE A CHANGE IN ZORINA. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HER LIFE SHE FEELS SHE HAS A TRUE GOAL.
HER OWN MISSION IN LIFE.

I MEAN IT'S TIME FOR ME TO DO SOMETHING WITH MY LIFE..
.. NOT WASTE IT BY ENDING UP DEAD CHASING THESE MONSTERS
UH.. COME AGAIN?
I KNOW THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN SAY TO EASE THE PAIN RIGHT NOW, ZORINA...
.. BUT I TRULY BELIEVE THAT YOUR MOTHER'S IN A MUCH BETTER PLACE RIGHT NOW.
MOM WOULDA WANTED ME TO SUCCEED AND FULFILL MY DREAMS.
THANKS, ESPY I KNOW.
I TRULY FEEL FOUND AND CONFUSED AT THE SAME TIME. I MEAN WHAT HAPPENS NOW?
I NEED TO THINK OF *HER* AND WHAT *SHE* WANTED FOR ME.
IT'S *NOT* THIS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
BUT...
OUT YA GO!
UOOHH!
THUMP!

FOUND THIS LITTLE WEASEL SKULKIN' BEHIND THE TREE, SPYING
REOWW!
I-I. WASN'T SPYING. I JUST COULDN'T AFFORD TO BE SEEN HERE.
WAIT A SEC....I KNOW YOU.
YOU'RE THE GUY ON MY MOM'S COMPUTER SCREEN* ...IN THE HOUSE.
YES... IT IS
OKAY, DEAD MAN, I'LL GIVE YOU ONE CHANCE TO EXPLAIN
OH .. MY ...
*SEE ISSUE #1 OF THE TENTH VOL 2
I'M JAFFE, SAM JAFFE. AN OLD FRIEND OF YOUR MOTHER'S. I'M SORRY FOR NOT MAKING MYSELF KNOWN TO YOU BUT IT'S A VERY DANGEROUS SITUATION.
HE'S CONNECTED
OH, YEAH FOR SURE
THEN CONNECT THESE DOTS FOR ME, ASSHOLE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOIN' WITH THESE FILES... AND OUR PHOTOS??

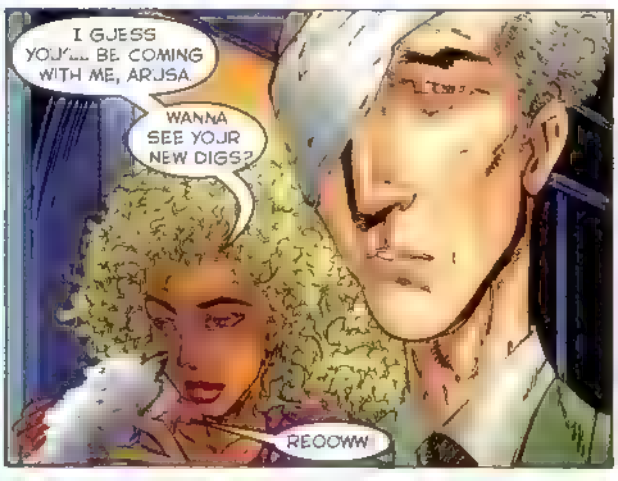
FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER
A SIDEWALK CAFE.
I AM THE DIRECTOR FOR AN ORGANIZATION YOU MAY OR MAY NOT KNOW OF.
IT IS KNOWN AS UPROAR.
IT IS UPROAR'S DUTY TO TAB AND MONITOR ALL COVERT ACTIVITIES THAT MAY ENDANGER THE GOVERNMENT AND/OR GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES.
YOU HAVE BEEN IN OUR RADAR FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS.
WE KNEW THAT UNDER DARKK'S VEIL AS MANKIND'S SAVIOR, THAT HE WAS CREATING A NEW RACE OF SUPERMONSTERS.
RHAZES DARKK AND HIS DARKKLON FOUNDATION IS OUR MOST URGENT PRIORITY.
HE IS ALL MANKIND'S PRIORITY
SSLURP
WE DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT HOW OR WHY, BUT WE DO KNOW THE DANGER OF HIS BEING.
WE FINANCED AND SANCTIONED YOUR SPECIAL F.B.I. TASK FORCE, VICTOR.
WE FUNDED YOUR INVASION INTO DARKKLON, TOO.
JUST AS YOUR MOTHER WAS ONE OF OUR AGENTS, ZORNA.
THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS WITH HIS KNOWLEDGE AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY

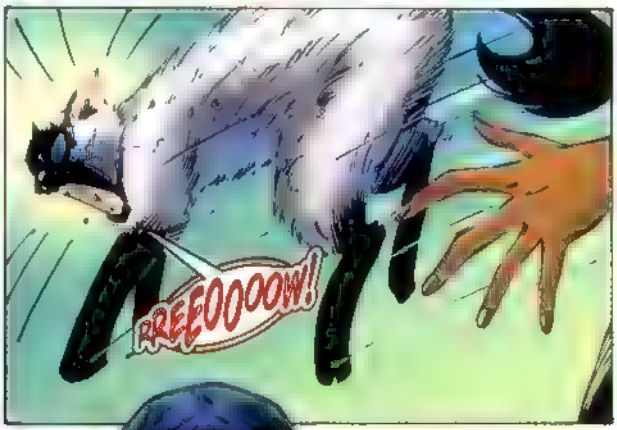
MY MOM... WORKED FOR YOU?
YES. SHE WAS A GOOD WOMAN. SHE GAVE HER LIFE TO PROTECT YOU AND THE WORLD. SHE KNEW THE EVIL OF RHAZES DARKK TOO WELL.
YOUR MOTHER'S WISHES WERE THAT JPROAR WOULD SEE TO YOUR WELL-BE NG F ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO HER.
IT WAS ALSO HER WISH THAT YOU F NISH COLLEGE
IT WOULD BE OUR PRIVILEGE TO SEE THAT YOUR FINANCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL WANTS ARE FILLED.
SCHOOL WOULD BE GOOD
YOU'D BE SAFE THERE, ZORINA. OUT OF THE LINE OF FIRE.
WE HAVE A PLACE SET UP FOR YOU...FOR ALL THREE OF YOU ON THE CAMPUS OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY.
IF THAT'S WHAT MY MOTHER WANTED... THEN I CAN'T LET HER DOWN.
NO, ZORINA.. WE WON'T LET HER DOWN.
IN RETURN, WE'D LIKE YOUR HELP.
IT SOUNDS GOOD.
BUT.
YOU SCREW US.
I KILL YOU.

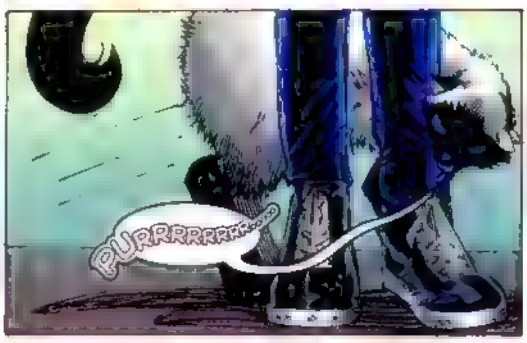
CHICAGO
10:30 AM
THE FEDERAL SCIENCE COMMISSION BUILDING
GENERAL GREER, I DON'T THINK YOU FULLY UNDERSTAND MY FINDINGS THE SPECIFICATIONS THAT MS. BAHAREH SOLD YOU WERE CORRECT
I TRACED IT DOWN TO A MALFUNCTION ON YOUR PART.
THE PROBLEM WAS IN THE PARA MESH SYSTEM.
AND IT WAS YOUR SCIENCE OFFICER THAT PERFORMED THAT PART OF THE PROCEDURE.
REGARDLESS.. . I WANT PROOF THAT THERE WON'T BE ANY MORE MISTAKES . HALF BAKED BODIES AND SCREW UPS!
IT HAS TO BE COVERT THESE FREAKS MUST REMAIN IN SECLUSION.
OF COURSE, GENERAL. .
PLEASE. . FOLLOW ME.

BEHOLD... LAST C.
THE COOKIE THAT CAME OUT OF THE OVEN TOO SOON. YOU SHOULD HAVE RUN A "TASTE TEST" HERE BEFORE YOU SENT HIM INTO THE FIELD
WITH OUR GUESTS COMING I'M SURE YOU WILL WANT TO MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR HIS TRANSPORT.
THE OTHERS ARE STILL IN INCUBATION.
REGENERATION. THE MISSING "X-FACTOR".
LIKE TORN TISSUE, HE NEEDED TO SCAB OVER, TO REGENERATE. WHEN DONE, HE COMES BACK MUCH STRONGER THAN BEFORE.
HE IS NOW READY.
BUT THEY WILL BE READY . VERY SOON.
RUSH HOUR
5 30 PM
THE CHICAGO LOOP

WELL, WITH EVERYTHING IN ORDER I SUGGEST WE GET STARTED
VICTOR, WE WILL BE BACK TO PICK YOU AND ESPERANZA UP AT THE LAB AFTER DR. KELLY JOHNSON AND HIS AIDES DO THE BLOOD TESTS
I'LL TAKE ZORINA TO SET UP IN YOUR NEW QUARTERS AT THE UNIVERSITY
YEAH . . .SURE

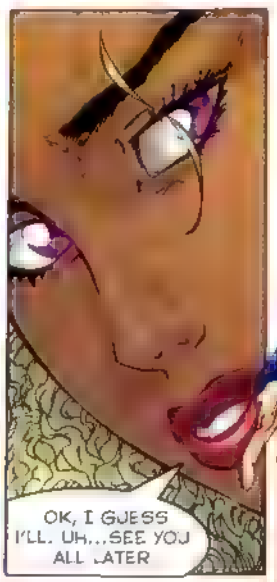

I GUESS YOU'LL BE COMING WITH ME, ARJSA
WANNA SEE YOUR NEW DIGS?
REOOWW

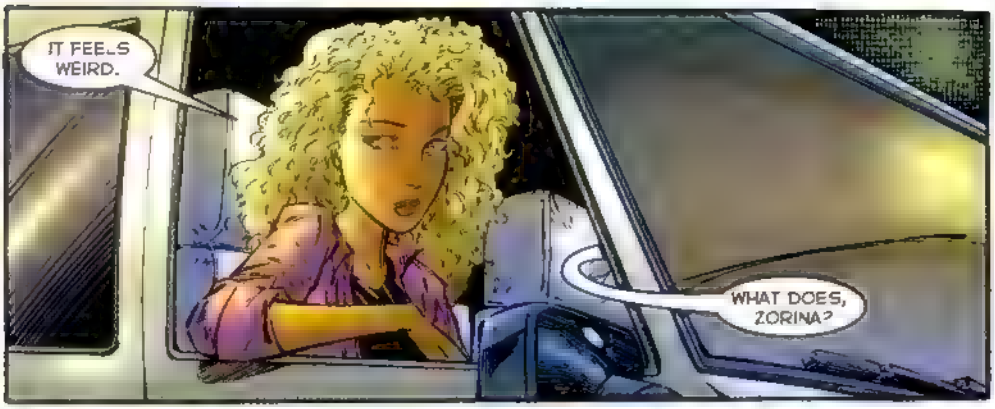

RREEOOOW!

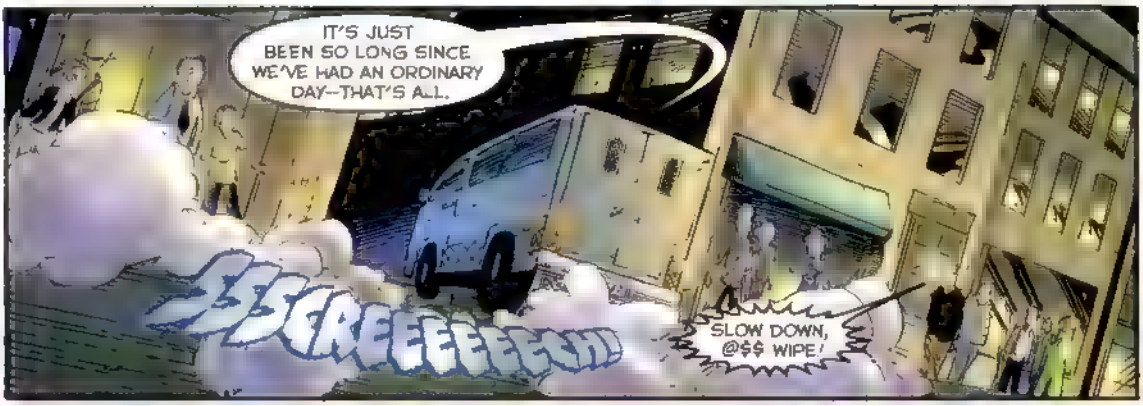

PURRRRRRR

DON'T WORRY Z, THIS SHOULD ONLY TAKE A COUPLE OF HOURS.
WE'LL MEET FOR DINNER, OKAY?

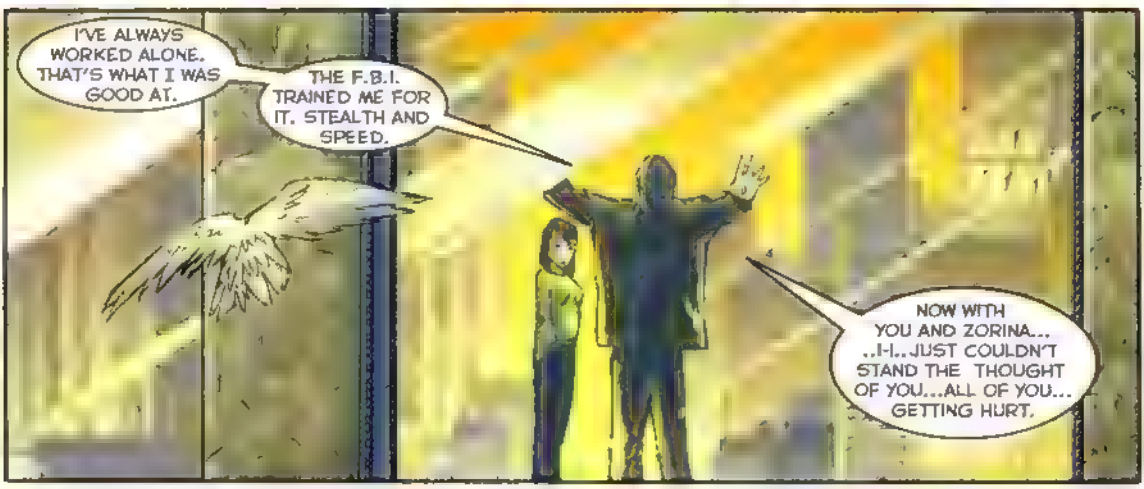
OK, OK, ARUSA . YOU CAN STAY HERE WITH US


OK, I GUESS I'LL. UH...SEE YOU ALL LATER


IT FEELS WEIRD.
WHAT DOES, ZORINA?


IT'S JUST BEEN SO LONG SINCE WE'VE HAD AN ORDINARY DAY--THAT'S ALL.
SSSCREEEEEECH!!
SLOW DOWN, @$$ WIPE!

ESPY..I'M SO SORRY I BROUGHT ALL OF YOU INTO THIS. I NEVER MEANT FOR OTHERS TO BE INVOLVED.
YOU DIDN'T, VICTOR. ZORINA AND I WERE DRAGGED INTO THIS BY OTHER FORCES... ..LIKE YOU.
NONE OF US ASKED FOR IT
YEAH....BUT IT CAME ANYWAY.


I'VE ALWAYS WORKED ALONE. THAT'S WHAT I WAS GOOD AT.
THE F.B.I. TRAINED ME FOR IT. STEALTH AND SPEED.
NOW WITH YOU AND ZORINA... ..I-I..JUST COULDN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF YOU...ALL OF YOU... GETTING HURT.

I KNOW, VICTOR. I FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT YOU....
AND ZORINA.
BUT I'M USED TO BEING IN SITUAT ONS THAT INCLUDE DANGER.
WHAT I'M NOT USED TO IS HAVING OTHERS TO CARE ABOUT. THAT'S NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE I DON'T KNOW IF I'M UP TO THAT.
IT...SCARES ME.
YOU KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE HOW I GET WHEN THE BLOODLUST HITS.
I LOSE CONTROL, AND WHEN I'M IN THE MONSTER FORM, I NEED THAT CONTROL. NOT ONLY FOR MY SAKE , BUT FOR THE LIVES OF THOSE AROUND ME.
I HAVEN'T NEEDED BLOOD IN DAYS.
I FEEL LIKE A WALKING BOMB...
AND I DON'T WANT TO MAKE YOU...
A VICTIM OF THAT EXPLOSION.

EVER SINCE RHAZES DARKK DID THIS TO ME I'VE BEEN IN A CONTINUAL METAMORPHOSIS.

EVIL TUGGING ON ME ON ONE END..

AND ON THE OTHER END ALL THAT IS GOOD AND PURE.

BUT OF ALL THE CHANGES I'VE EXPERIENCED THE BIGGEST ONE IS...

I DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE ANYMORE.

I KNOW

NEITHER DO I.

I.....FEEL SO CLOSE TO YOU..
REOOOW!
I FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT YOU, ESPY.
REOOOW!
HUH???
YOU'RE SO MUCH LIKE..
A BIG BROTHER TO ME
FREEDEDEOOW!!
KA-THAAAAP!
REAK!!
help me..
OH..MY!!!!
SHIT!

agghh . . . the pain . . . kill me. please . . .
find jaffe . . . warn him . . . ughhh'
MY GOD.
WHAT THE HE . . IS THAT THING?
THEY'RE ALL FUSED TOGETHER. . .
yughh!
I DON'T KNOW BUT I HOPE THESE AREN'T THE DOCTORS WE WERE HERE TO SEE
WHO DID TH S TO YOU?
run for your lives, fools!
beware . . .
yeeaagh!
THIS IS SICK DARKK'S INSANITY IS EVERYWHERE.
ESPY, LOOK. . . THEIR NAME TAGS.
THESE ARE THE DOCTORS WE WERE TO MEET WITH.
WE'VE GOT TO FIND JAFFE AND ZORNA.

gasp! a man named austin! he fused our bodies together
please... touch us... relieve our pain.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN.
..uhhh ..please!
he told us that now we were to be the guinea pigs- -aarghh!
we need your touch--it's the only way!
WAIT, VICTOR, DON'T GO NEAR THEM!
please touch.
touch
yes.. aaagh.. please..
yessssss
take our pain!!!
JUST.. TOUCH YOU?

UGHHHHHH!
OH MY GOD! VICTOR ... YOU'RE..SHOT. .. ...VICTOR!!
DON'T WORRY, MS. DEL TORRO, IT'S A... FOR THE BETTER.
I JUST THOUGHT I'D MAKE THINGS A LITTLE MORE INTERESTING BEFORE THE REAL GAME
WHAT'S THE MATTER...HOW COME YOU'RE NOT CHANGING??
OH ...DON'T WORRY, WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET YOU DIE
I.. DON'T KNOW...
ESPY ... I FEEL LIKE I'M...DYING..
YET!

LA$TIC!

AT LONG LASSSSST--

I GET TO PLAY WITH MY DEAR OLD FRIENDS!

THAT'SSS RIGHT. LET YOUR NATURAL REFLEXES TAKE OVER...

USE THOSE FANTASTIC POWERS ON ME--

PLEASE!

I ...W-WON'T! NOT AGAIN! JGHHHNN!

IT FEELS GREAT TO KILL. YOU KNOW THAT VERY WELL, ESSSSSSSSPY!

WHA--

OOOOH! I CAN'T MOVE!

WHAT A RUSH IT MUST HAVE BEEN TO KILL YOUR PARENTS

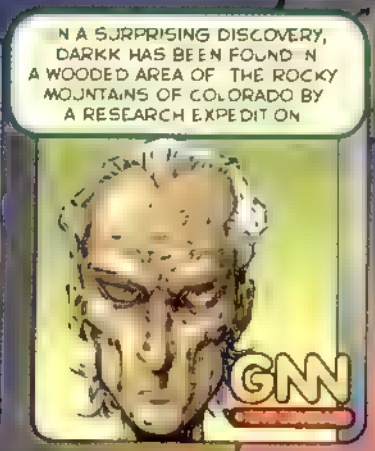
THIS TIME I WILL SHARE THE RUSH WITH YOU

TOGETHER WE WILL THRIVE OFF THE BLOOD OF YOUR LAST TWO AND ONLY FRIENDS

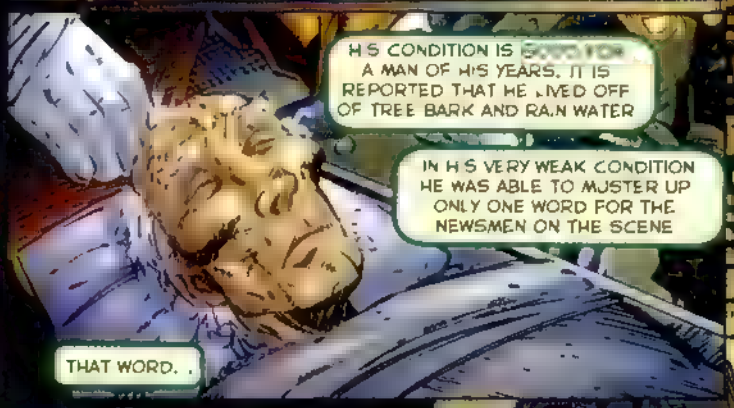
HA HA HAH HA HA HA!

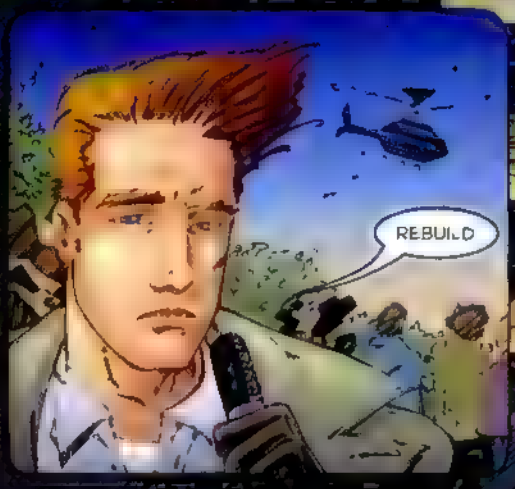
TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE

AGAIN, THIS SPECIAL REPORT JUST IN
GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN, RHAZES DARKK HAS BEEN FOUND.
GNN


IN A SURPRISING DISCOVERY, DARKK HAS BEEN FOUND IN A WOODED AREA OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS OF COLORADO BY A RESEARCH EXPEDITION
GNN

WE ARE SWITCHING LIVE TO THE SCENE.
THANK YOU, ROSE SANTILENA
AS REPORTED RHAZES DARKK HAS BEEN FOUND HERE IN THE ROCKIES ONLY A MERE EIGHT MILES FROM WHERE HIS CONTROVERSIAL AND EXPERIMENTAL TOWN, SPRINGDALE, EXISTED


HIS CONDITION IS GOOD FOR A MAN OF HIS YEARS. IT IS REPORTED THAT HE LIVED OFF OF TREE BARK AND RAIN WATER
IN HIS VERY WEAK CONDITION HE WAS ABLE TO MUSTER UP ONLY ONE WORD FOR THE NEWSMEN ON THE SCENE
THAT WORD. .


REBUILD

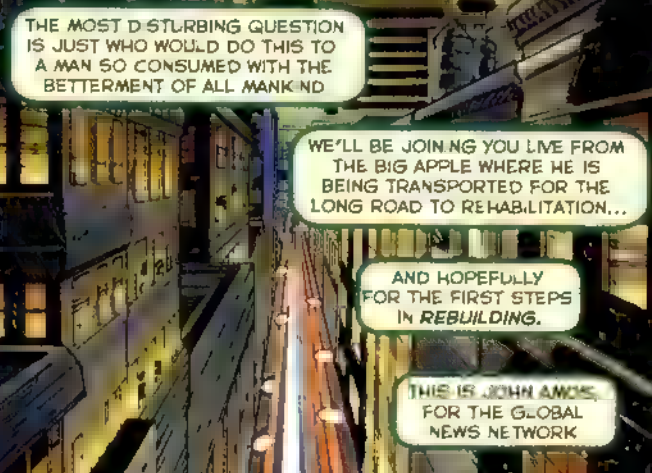

THE MOST DISTURBING QUESTION IS JUST WHO WOULD DO THIS TO A MAN SO CONSUMED WITH THE BETTERMENT OF ALL MANKIND
WE'LL BE JOINING YOU LIVE FROM THE BIG APPLE WHERE HE IS BEING TRANSPORTED FOR THE LONG ROAD TO REHABILITATION...
AND HOPEFULLY FOR THE FIRST STEPS IN REBUILDING.
THIS IS JOHN AMOS, FOR THE GLOBAL NEWS NETWORK

image
DANIEL
BEAU
CRAWFORD
MOUNTS
DIRECT SALES

THE TENTH

ISSUE 7

TONY DANIEL

CREATOR, PENCILER, STORY

BEAU SMITH

SCRIPT

SALEEM CRAWFORD

INKER

PAUL MOUNTS AND BINGO DUNLAOAING

COLORS AND SEPERATIONS

KNALO-GRAPHICS

LETTERS AND FILM

BAHAREH KRANDLEY

EDITOR

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE...

At Jaena's funeral, Victor, Espy, and Zorina meet Director Jaffe. Jaffe heads the organization known as "UPROAR", which apparently funded Victor's CIA covert missions into Darkklon. Jaffe was also working with Jaena (Zorina's mother) before she fell into the clutches of Rhazes Darkk. Zorina learns that her mother's last wishes were that she complete her education. Zorina and the gang vow not to let Jaena down. Before setting up the trio in their new quarters at the university, Jaffe takes Victor and Espy to undergo testing at a downtown lab. Meanwhile, General Greer is finally about to get some use out of the technology he bought from Bahareh. One of the subjects of that technology: Lastic. he is rehabilitated, stronger and waiting for his next government mission. Meanwhile, Rhazes Darkk was discovered weak and frail in the Rocky Mountains, not far from his obliterated experimental town of Springdale.

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CHICAGO
Illinois Genetic Research Building
HERE I AM AGAIN.
LYING FACE UP LOOKING AT THE CEILING WONDERING IF I'M DEAD YET.
EXCEPT THIS TIME IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT.
THIS TIME I HAVE NO SAFETY NET.
THIS TIME IT'S FOR REAL.
NO TRIGGER TO TURN ME INTO. .
THE TENTH.
VICTOR! OH MY GOD WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU?!
CHANGE, DAMN IT!
CHANGE!

HE'S GOING TO DIE, ESSPERANZA HE NEEDS YOU TO SSAVE HIM
NO, UGHH!
SSSAVE HIM!!
. UGH ..ESPY! DON'T LET HIM TRICK YOU AGAIN! R-RUN AWAY!*
WHATEVER YOU DO...DON'T USE YOUR ..UGGH.. POWERS!
* See Issue #1!-Ed.
AAAAAAH!
HE'S TRYING TO MAKE ME DO IT!
PLEASE, YOUNG LADY, WE'RE ON A SCHEDULE HERE. ARE YOU GOING TO HELP US HELP YOUR FRIEND OR DO WE HAVE TO GET DRASTIC?

OH MY-- HE'S BLEEDING VERY HEAVILY, ODD-- PERHAPS HIS IMMUNE SYSTEM IS COUNTERACTING THE DARKK DNA STRAIN.
MAYBE OUR MEASURES HAVE NOT BEEN SEVERE ENOUGH.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, ESPERANZA?
ESPY! GET OUT!
KA-TAK KA-TAK
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
GO!
VICTOR!!!
OOUGGHH..
YOU KILLED HIM!!!
YOU KILLED HIM!
SHE'SS OUT THE FREAKIN' WINDOW!

I COULD'VE HAD HER, TOO! AGHH!
READY YOURSELF FOR RETRIEVAL OF SUBJECT NUMBER 1, ADDY
MORE BAD NEWS, I'M AFRAID... VICTOR'S DEAD!
READY!
GOTTASTOPGOTTASTOPGOTTASTOP...
YEAHRRRRR...

WHIRR!
TIBBIBBIDDIDD!
HUH??
GOOD JOB, ADDY. REEL HER IN NOW.
SEE? NO PROBLEM, BOSS ONE DOWN, ONE BIG ONE TO GO!
OH. MY...

Northwestern University Campus.
SSWEET jeeeeesus!
BEAUTIFUL... ISN'T IT?
IT'S . BIG.
IT IS THE FORMER COMPUTER SCIENCE AND RESEARCH BUILDING. AS A PROFESSOR OF COMPUTER SCIENCE I WORKED HERE FOR MANY YEARS.
THERE WAS A BAD FIRE IN 1990. WE'VE... REMODELED SINCE.
TO YOUR LIKING I HOPE.
LIKING?
OHH...
FOR SURE.

WE WILL BE MEETING ESPERANZA AND VICTOR HERE SOON.
I HOPE THEY FIND THE ESTABLISHMENT FITTING TO THEIR NEEDS.
WHEN THEY ARRIVE I WILL GO OVER SOME OF THE MORE UNUSUAL CONVENIENCES OF THE PLACE.
ONES THAT WILL BE OF USE TO THEM.
I HOPE THE DOCTORS CAN ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS FOR THEM. IT'S BEEN DAYS SINCE VICTOR HAS NEEDED BLOOD.
YES...I AM SURE DR. KELLY AND HIS STAFF WILL BE UNITED IN THEIR FINDINGS.
HERE IS YOUR ROOM, ZORINA. YOU CAN WAIT HERE FOR THEM IF YOU LIKE.
I HAD THEM ADJUST IT TO LOOK LIKE YOUR OLD ROOM AT HOME. I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND.
UH....
NO. THAT'S FINE...
THIS IS... JUST LIKE THE ONE ..MOM HAD FOR ME AT OUR OLD HOUSE.
UH... IF YOU DON'T MIND, DR. JAFFE... I'D KINDA LIKE TO BE ALONE FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
OH.
CLICK
OF COURSE. I UNDERSTAND

CAMBODIA! A FEW YEARS AND UNCOUNTED DEAD BODIES AGO.
A MISSION TO HUNT DOWN ONE OF OUR OWN.
BUT HE WAS FAR FROM ONE OF MY OWN.
CONNIE MCGUIRE WAS TO BE COLLECTING INTELLIGENCE ON THE CONTRABAND THAT WAS BEING FED TO THE GUERRILLA UNDERGROUND.
CHEMICAL WARFARE AT ITS WORST.. BIO-GERMS LACED IN AN ANTHRAX NIGHTMARE.
AND WORSE..
CONNIE WAS GOING TO MAKE HIS OWN DEAL.. ONE WORTH MILLIONS.
HE TOOK TO A KILLING SPREE THAT TOOK DOWN ALL SIDES.....
THE GOOD GUYS...
THE BAD GUYS...
AND OUR GUYS..

HIS TRAIL WASN'T HARD TO FIND.
I JUST FOLLOWED THE STENCH OF DEAD BODIES.
LONNIE WAS A MAD DOG FROTHING AT THE MOUTH.
I PUT AN END TO HIS MADNESS.
CAUGHT UP WITH LONNIE IN SINGAPORE.
I HAD TO TAKE THE PLACE OF THE BUYER FOR THE GOODS.
AND HOPE THAT LONNIE DIDN'T RECOGNIZE ME.
HE DIDN'T.
TOO BAD FOR HIM.

COVERT OPS. IT WAS THE FIRST KILL I EVER ENJOYED.
IT WAS SO DAMN RIGHTEOUS.
DEATH WAS THE ONLY CURE FOR THE KIND OF SICKNESS LONNIE HAD.
THAT WAS THE LAST TIME I EVER SAW LONNIE MCGUIRE...
LYING DEAD IN A POOL OF HIS OWN BLOOD.
HIS DEAD EYES LOOKING UP AT ME.

SO MUCH HAS CHANGED.
NOW I'M THE ONE WHO'S LYING IN MY OWN POOL OF BLOOD.
CONNIE'S CHANGED.
IT'S HIS DEAD EYES THAT ARE LOOKING UP NOW...
AT HIM.
HEY, LOOK! THE SON OF A BITCH ISN'T DEAD AFTER ALL. I STILL MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET SOME JUICE OUT OF HIM

I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT...HE'S LOST MORE THAN ENOUGH BLOOD.
HE SHOULD BE CHANGING, NOT DYING
HIS LIGHT STILL FLICKERS ENOUGH FOR ME TO DRAIN WHAT POWER HE HAS
I HAVE A BAD FEELING. THIS WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN LIKE THIS. MONSTER OR NOT...WE CAN'T LEAVE HERE WITHOUT TAKING WHAT WE CAME FOR.
DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO AND LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
UHHP!
WHO??
MY NAME'S ADRENALYNN.
WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE THE REMAINS OF HIS BODY WITH US.
UHHHH...
THANKS FOR DROPPING BY

JH.. THANKS...
LOOK. . UM KID... THIS PLACE ISN'T SAFE.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. YOU NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE... NOW.
THEY'VE.. KILLED MY FRIEND... THEY'LL KILL YOU TOO.
NO.
I'M HERE FOR YOU... AND YOUR FRIEND, VICTOR.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.
HOW DID YOU KNOW HIS NA- -
- -YOUR SAFETY IS MY MISSION.
THAT MEANS I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR YOU BOTH.
YOU'RE WHAT?! HOW CAN A KID LIKE Y- -
AUUGHHH!
OHMIGOD! IT'S VICTOR! I CAN FEEL IT! HE-HE'S ALIVE!

ESPY I I'M DYING. SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT. .
I'M REALLY DYING. .
NO, VICTOR! YOU CAN'T DIE.. I WON'T LET YOU!
YOU HAVE TO FIGHT. YOU HAVE TO CHANGE!
I I CAN'T
YES YOU CAN, VICTOR...
I'M GOING TO... MAKE YOU CHANGE!
NOW, DAMN IT!
CHANGE--
NOW!!
BRAGHHH...
BREEAAAAAHH!

HE'S ALIVE . HE'S DEAD...HE'S ALIVE AGAIN. .
ARGHH! ABSORB HIM AND LET'S GO BEFORE HE DIES AGAIN!
MMMM HIS WOUNDSS ARE HEALING . HE'S STARTING TO CHANGING
. AT LASSSST.
UNIT 1- - GET BACK UP TO THE 22ND FLOOR - - NOW!
C'MON YOU LITTLE RAT TURD - GET UP!
CHILD FROM THE PREMISES!
THUMP.
THUMP.
THUMP!
SECOND UNIT PREPARE FOR TRANSPORT.
UNIT THREE CLEAR THE EXIT.
YES, MR. AUSTIN. AT ONCE.
UNIT FOUR, ERASE ANY MAN , WOMAN OR...

DUM-DEE-DUMM...
THIS BUILDING AIN'T EMPTY AFTER ALL-- LOOK!
HEADS UP... WE'VE GOT AN INTERLOPER!
HEY, SWEETHEART-- WHAT THE HELL ARE YA DOIN?
JUST LOOK N'--
-- AT WHAT'S BEHIND YA.
SSSSSIIIIITTTPP!
UGHH!
AAAAHGH!!
SSSSIITTTTPP!
THANKS FOR DISTRACTING THEM, BUT YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE PUT YOURSELF IN DANGER LIKE THAT.
DISTRACTING? DANGER?
I DID IT ON PURPOSE! I WAS GOING TO SHRED THEM! YOU'RE THE ONE IN DANGER!

YOU'RE JUST A KID. GET OUT OF HERE!
SORRY... I CAN'T DO THAT. I ALREADY TOLD YOU. WHERE YOU GO... I GO.
IT'S NOTHIN' I CAN HELP EITHER... BELIEVE ME, I'D REALLY RATHER BE SOMEWHERE ELSE . BUT YA SEE, I HAVE ORDERS.
HOLD IT! ORDERS??! ORDERS FROM WHO?
IF YOU ONLY KNEW. HEEHEE!
OKAY!! I'VE GOT NO TIME FOR GAMES OR FOR IMMATURE TEENIE BOPPERS...
THAT'S IT! I'M OUTA' HERE!! QUEEN OF SHEBA! I OUGHT TO--
UH-UH-UH-UH...
SORRY IF WE CAUSED YOU ANY DISTRESS, ESPERANZA.
BODY IS STILL PART HUMAN AND SOMETIMES HER EMOTIONS ARE UNCONTROLLABLE.
HELLO, ESPERANZA. AS STATED BEFORE WE ARE ADRENALYNN
A CYBERGENETIC FIGHTING BEING.
THAT'S WHEN I HAVE TO SHUT THAT PART OF HER DOWN.
HUH??
PARA-MESHED WITH LIVING TISSUE FOR THE PREFECT MARRIAGE OF ORGANIC AND CYBER-GENETICS.
IF YOU LET US...WE CAN HELP YOU
?

RUUUUP!
FEEL IT VICTOR I HAVE WAITED TOO LONG FOR THIS
I AM GOING TO ROB YOU OF EVERYTHING YOU ARE.
RRAAAAAAAAGH!
AND EVERYTHING YOU WERE GOING TO BE!
YOU WANT IT?
TAKE IT!
WHERE'S THAT BACK-UP??
UNIT ONE_ANSWER ME!!
WELL, IT WON'T BE HARD TO REMEMBER WHICH ROOM THEY WERE IN.

ESPERANZA... WE MUST KEEP AT A SAFE DISTANCE

I'M GOING IN I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO MAY BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING.

AND YOUR INTENTION IS..

WE'LL SEE WHEN I OPEN THE D- -

KRAKKAKKKS

KRHHKRAK

VICTOR!

PSHOOOOOEEE

MEEEOOOW!

ARUSA??

UHH GET OUT UHHHH.

I DETECT A LIFE FORM APPROACHING..

WAIT, DON'T SHOOT!

IT'S ARUSA!

NEGATIVE. UNLESS YOUR CAT WEIGHS 180 POUNDS

IT'S VICTOR!

REEOOW!
WHAT HAPPENED??
THE EXPLOSION.. LASTIC D.D IT.
HE'S GONE.
AND THAT'S NOT THE WORST OF IT...
HE TOOK THE MONSTER FROM ME...
NOW IT'S HIS.

SKRUUAASUUUU!
LOOK OUT!
OH..MY GOD!!
DO YOU SEE THAT??
NYAAAU!
THE BLOOD! AGHHH!
AAAAAAH! MOMMA!
YESSS YESSSS AT LASSST
YAAGH! GET OUT OF MY WAY!!
I'M DYING
HHEEAAHAHH!
AHAHAHA

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
IT LOOKS LIKE THE IMPOSSIBLE IS POSSIBLE AFTER ALL.
THINGS ARE NOW MORE COMPLICATED THAN EVER.
DARKK WILL FIND OUT THAT GREER IS USING HIS TECHNOLOGY TO MAKE GOVERNMENT GHOULS.
Darkklon Empire To Be Rebuilt.
MORE THAN LIKELY, HE'LL KNOW THAT IT WAS YOU WHO SOLD GREER THE INFORMATION
I'M AFRAID OUR INVESTORS ARE SEEKING TO RELINQUISH THEMSELVES FROM ANY FURTHER VENTURES OF THE DARKK TECHNOLOGY.
FINE.
WE WERE NOT PREPARED FOR SUCH A SITUATION BUT WE WILL HANDLE THIS VERY SWIFTLY.
DARKKLON MUST NOT BE REBUILT.
THIS IS MERELY AN INAUSPICIOUS SNAG.
MR. WHITE, SEE THESE KIND GENTLEMEN OUT, PLEASE.
YES, BAHAREH.
I WILL MEET WITH GENERAL GREER ON MONDAY TO MAKE SURE THAT HIS PRIORITIES ARE MAINTAINED.
WE WILL HAVE ONE LESS PROBLEM TO CONCERN OURSELVES WITH, MR. WHITE.
TRUST ME.
END

THE
$2.50
WHO WILL BE
adrenalynn's
FIRST
VICTIM ?!
DIRECT SALES
00811
7 09853 11006 4
TONY DANIEL
TB
CRAWFORD

TONY DANIEL
CREATOR, PENCILS, STORY
BEAU SMITH
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SALEEM CRAWFORD
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INKS
BONGOTONE'S
PAUL MOUNTS AND KEN WOLAK
COLORS AND SEPERATIONS
KELL-O-GRAPHICS
FILM
BAHAREH HARANDI
EDITOR

previously in the tenth:

LASTIC AND BAHAREH'S ASSISTANT, AUSTIN, HAVE ESPY AND VIC CORNERED 22 STORIES ABOVE CHICAGO WHERE THEY ATTEMPTED TO "FORCE" THE TENTH OUT OF VICTOR'S BODY BY CRITICALLY SHOOTING HIM. VICTOR DIDN'T CHANGE, EVEN AFTER A NEAR-FATAL BLOW TO THE HEAD DUE TO HIS RECENT ENCOUNTER WITH RHAZES DARKKJ ESPERANZA, WHOSE ONLY MEANS OF ESCAPE WAS TO BACK OUT OF A WINDOW, WAS RESCUED BY A CYBER-GENETIC TEENAGER NAMED ADRENALYNN, VIA ESPY'S TELE-LINK WITH VICTOR, SHE "WILLED" HIM TO CHANGE (AT LEAST A LITTLE BIT) INTO HIS BEAST HALF. LASTIC THEN TOOK ADVANTAGE, SINCE THIS WAS WHAT HE'S BEEN WAITING FOR--TO STEAL THE MOST IMPORTANT CREATION OF THIS CENTURY...THE TENTH.

FOR IMAGE COMICS
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THEIR NUMBERS WERE MANY.
THEIR CLAWS RIPPED AT MY FLESH.
THEIR SCREAMS AND BARKS WERE LIKE NEEDLES STABBING MY EARS.
THEY WANTED TO STOP ME. THEY WANTED MY BLOOD.
THEY WOULD GET NEITHER!
ESSSSSPY! WHERE ARE YOU!??

THEY WANT TO KEEP ME FROM MY GOAL....FROM ESPY.
MY BLOODLUST IS STRONG.
I'LL SEE THEIR SKIN TORN FROM THEIR BONES FIRST.
THEY SURROUND ME, COVERING ME LIKE A MOIST BLANKET.
THEY RIP, TEAR AND TRY TO SUCK THE AIR FROM MY LUNGS.
I MUST FIND ESPY!!
ESPY!!

VRRUUUUUUU
UUUUGGGHH!
HERE I AM, VICTOR.
YOU POOR, SIMPLE FOOL.
ESPY??
I'M HERE TO DO YOU A FAVOR, YOU ABOMINATION
AS YOUR "FRIEND," I'LL TAKE YOU OUT OF YOUR HELLISH MISERY.
A MONSTER LIKE YOU NEEDS TO BE PUT DOWN.
FOREVER.
NOOOOOYYAAUUGHHH!

THE SUBTERRANEAN LAB OF UPROAR IN ALASKA
UUUAAAAAAGHHH!
QUICK, CHECK THE DREAMSCAPE SEQUENCE! HE'S HAVING A SEIZURE!
UHHH UGHHH.. NO...NO!
WE NEED TO OVERRIDE THE PROGRAM
DOCTOR JAFFE, YOU'RE HURTING HIM IS TH S REA..Y NECESSARY?
YES, ESPERANZA IT IS.
WE HAVE TO INDUCE THE METAMORPHOS S TO MONSTER STATE F HE IS TO LIVE T IS MY FEAR THAT LASTIC NOT ONLY STOLE THE TENTH FROM HIM, BUT ALSO TOOK CRUCIAL ELEMENTS OF VICTOR'S OWN LIFE FORCE.
WHAT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
JUST A HUNCH...

LOOK AT HIM!
HE'S IN PAIN! YOU'VE GOT TO TURN THOSE DAMN MACHINES OFF!
PLEASE, ESPERANZA...YOU HAVE TO TRUST ME. WE ARE DOING WHAT'S RIGHT FOR VICTOR
THERE IS JUST A FRACTION OF THE DARKK-ON DNA IN HIS GENETIC MAKE-UP.
"THROUGH THE INITIAL DNA INJECTIONS, THE PARAMESH AND RHAZES DARKK'S BRIEF POSSESSION OF VICTOR'S BODY, HIS TISSUES AND HIS OWN GENETIC MAKE-UP HAVE GRAFTED WITH THAT OF THE MONSTER DNA."
ACCK! ACCKK! YAGH!
THERE IS A SYMBIOTIC RATIO THAT MUST BE MAINTAINED. UNTIL THAT HAPPENS HE HAS TO BE OBSERVED.
I WANT THOSE MACHINES OFF. IF YOU DON'T...
I'LL DO IT MYSELF. YOU KNOW I CAN.
VERY WELL. THIS WILL BE THE LAST TEST...FOR NOW
OUR NEXT CONCERN IS LABTIC
SINCE HE MAY CARRY VICTOR'S MONSTER DNA, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE FIND HIM
I WANT TO BE THERE WHEN YOU DO.

"WE THINK WE HAVE A LEAD ON HIS CURRENT LOCATION."
CHICAGO WEST SIDE SEWER SYSTEM...
GEEZ! I CAN'T REMEMBER "TOILET TOWN" EVER SMELLIN' THIS BAD!
LIKE THERE WAS A TIME IT SMELLED GOOD?
CHILL OUT, I'M ALMOST DONE WITH THESE SAMPLES
IT AIN'T RIGHT. WE'VE BEEN CALLED OUT ON THE LAST THREE TOXIC JOBS. THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A ROTATION.
MY STOMACH IS ROTATIN'. I NEED TO EAT. IT'S PAST MY DINNER BREAK!
THIS IS THE LAST ONE, HOLD YOUR WATER
WELL, HURRY UP THEN, LAMARR
HEY! NO WONDER ..CHECK OUT ALL THAT CRAP COMIN' DOWN.
THAT'S A REAL LOG JAM... HUH? CHECK IT OUT.
HELL IS THAT??
"IT'S...A HAND!"

I'M NOT TOUCHIN' IT! I'VE SEEN THIS KINDA STUFF ON THE X-FILES.
GUYS LIKE US ALWAYS GET KILLED
THAT'S TV, YOU MORON.
LEMME SEE...
YYEWEAGHH!
NOOOOo!
RRIIIIIIIIPPP!
SPÜSSSHHHßßSSSHH!
JIMMY... WAIT... HEEELLP!
JIIIIIIMMMMMYYYY!
HUFF I I AM .. I-I'LL GO GET .HUFF .. HELP!
HUFF HUFF .. HOLD .ON HUFF . I'LL. BE BACK.
HUFF .HUFF UHH DAMN CIGARETTES.
WHOOSSHHHH!
aw. no.

NORTHWESTERN SPORTS PAVILION AND AQUATIC CENTER.
BRWWWG! BWWWG!
SPLOOSH
SPLISSH
AHHH!
DON'T TOUCH IT! DON'T TOUCH IT! IT'S FOR ME!
BRRIING! BRIIING!
ESPY..!
I'M SO GLAD IT'S YOU! YOU ARE NOT GONNA BELIEVE HOW COOL THIS PLACE IS. COLLEGE LIFE HAS ME WRITTEN ALL OVER IT!
THAT'S REALLY NICE, ZORINA I'VE GOT SOME NEWS ABOUT VICTOR.
OH YEAH SPILL.
IT SEEMS THAT VICTOR HAS LOST MOST OF THE MONSTER IN HIM
THAT'S A GOOD THING . RIGHT?
yeah. yeah I guess so.
THIS WILL BE A PERFECT TIME FOR YOU TO MOVE ON WITH YOUR LIFE. YOU REALLY SHOULD TRY TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL, TOO.
VICTOR CAN PLAY JAMES BOND WITH UPROAR.

SO, HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO USE YOUR TELEKINESIS?
KINDA. WELL, no. I CAN MOVE SMALL OBJECTS, BUT BIG ONES ARE OUT OF THE QUESTION.
I'M KINDA LIKE .NORMAL.
WELL, AS NORMAL AS I CAN GET
DON'T BE SO DOWN, ESPY! ISN'T THIS WHAT YOU ALWAYS WANTED—
. TO BE AVERAGE?
WELL, THAT DOES SOUND TEMPTING. IT WOULD BE NICE NOT TO BE A FREAK FOR ONCE
COOL! THEN TRY AND CHEER UP. YOU'RE NOT A THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL ANYMORE
I'LL SEE YOU WHEN YOU COME IN ON THURSDAY. AND YOU'D BETTER BE WEARING A SMILE!
UMM. I'LL TRY TO MANAGE. BYE

HELLO, ESPY.
OH.. HI, VICTOR YOU LOOK BETTER.
THANKS.
I'LL LET THE TWO OF YOU CATCH UP.
ESPERANZA, WE'LL NEED TO FINISH UP YOUR LAST TESTS IN ABOUT THIRTY MINUTES SEE YOU THEN
GOOD, THEY'RE GONE.
OH, VICTOR, I AM SO GLAD YOU'RE BETTER I WAS SO WORRIED!
I'M NOT 100% YET, BUT A LITTLE MONSTER IN ME IS BETTER THAN 900 POUNDS OF MONSTER.. RIGHT?
I was just. so scared. We lost our tele-link. I...wasn't sure if you
I'M GOING TO BE FINE. WE'RE GOING TO BE FINE.
PROMISE ME.
I PROMISE...
YAAAOW!!!!
ESPY?

"OH MY GOD! I-I'M SEEING THINGS!
"BLOOD.. I SEE BLOOD...
LOTS OF IT!
"..I-I CAN FEEL PAIN
"SAVAGERY. THE PLEASURE TAKEN IN KILLING.
"I CAN SEE EVERYTHING SO CLEARLY...
"SOMEONE'S SHOWING ME THIS!
"SOMEONE'S IN MY HEAD!"
IT'S THE SAME FEELING THAT I HAD WHEN YOU WERE THE TENTH.
ONLY THIS IS EVIL...
THIS IS
LASTIC!!

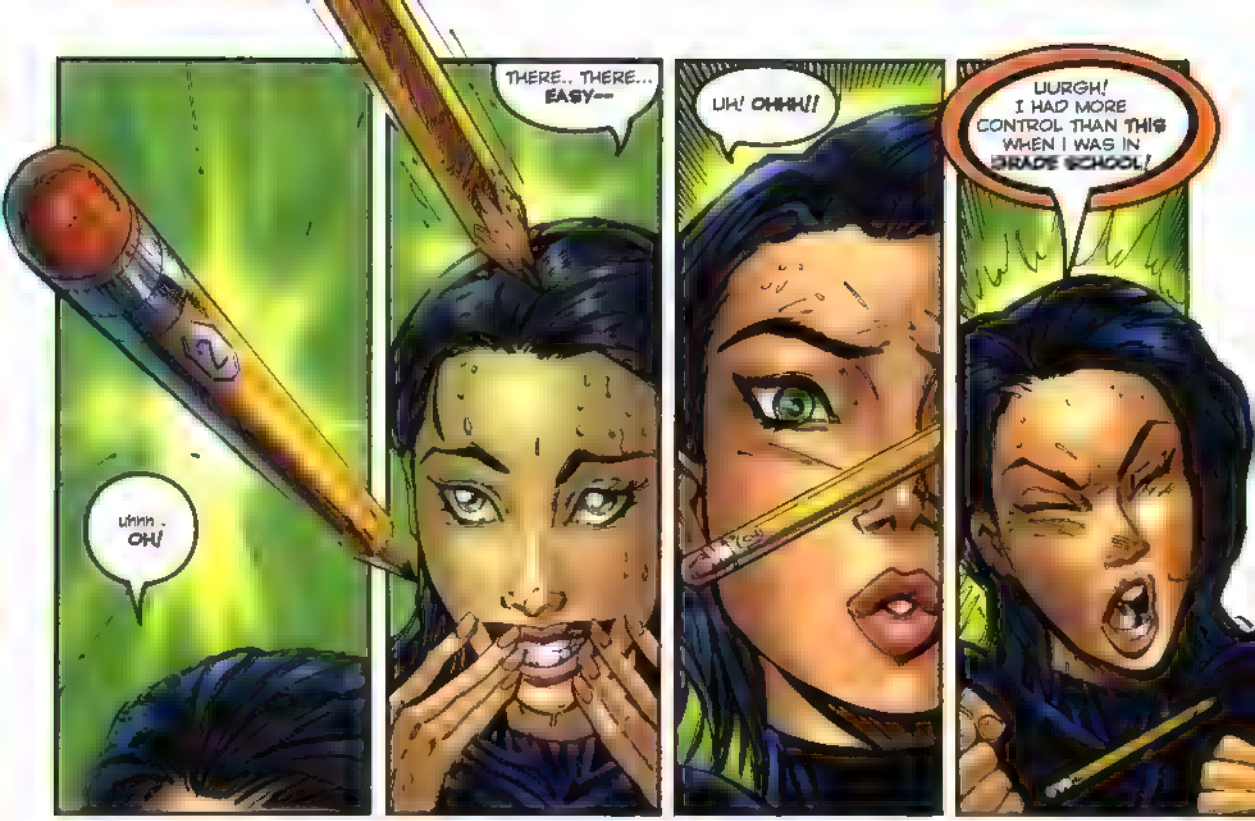
VICTOR-- THE TENTH, IT STILL EXISTS.
WHAT?
ONLY IT'S MUCH WORSE. I HAVEN'T FELT THIS MUCH EVIL SINCE RHAZES DARKK!
DARKK CREATED THE TENTH FOR EVIL.
WITHIN LASTIC IT MIGHT FULFILL DARKK'S [illegible] OR WORSE.
IT'S CALLING FOR YOU, VICTOR
THE MONSTER I STILL HAVE A TELE-LINK TO IT SOMEHOW
IT NEEDS YOU..IT WANTS YOU BACK!
WELL, HE'S NOT GETTING ME BACK!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
I DON'T KNOW-- I THINK THAT THE TENTH IS TRYING TO COMMUNICATE WITH ME! IT MUST BE TRYING TO WARN US!
BUT MESH WITH IT AGAIN?
NO WAY!
I'LL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO HUNT IT DOWN AND DESTROY IT .OR LASTIC . WHATEVER IT IS NOW
VICTOR WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!

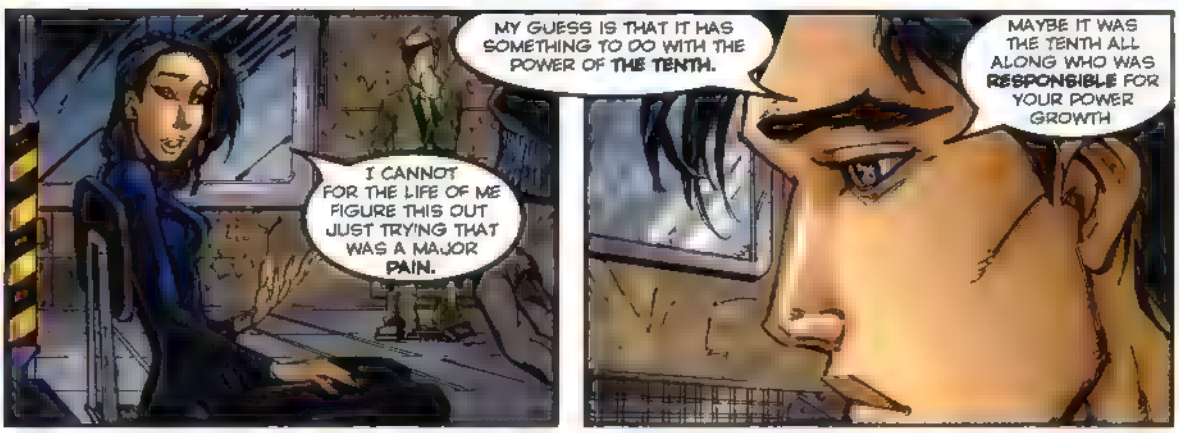
WASHINGTON, D.C.
LYING BASTARDS.
MANIPULATIVE BACK-STABBING, [redacted] THAT PISS ON YOU THE FIRST CHANCE THEY GET.
SPLUUUUSH!
"GENERAL...WHAT WERE YOU DOING OUT THERE?"
"RELIEVING A LITTLE STRESS."
DRIP...DRIP...DRIP!
IN ALL MY YEARS WITH THE GOVERNMENT I HAVE LEARNED ONE LESSON WELL--
--WHEN YOU RESIDE WITH THE SHARKS, YOU SWIM WITH THEM, YOU EAT WITH THEM, BUT YOU NEVER BECOME THE FEAST.
RHAZES DARKK HAS CHARMED THE WATERS WITH HIS RETURN
THERE'S A LOT OF TALK ON CAPITOL HILL OF FORMING A PARTNERSHIP WITH THAT MADMAN
IN EXCHANGE, THE DARKER SIDE OF UNCLE SAM WILL FUND THE NEW DARKKLON COMPLEX...
THE REBUILDING OF--
--SPRINGDALE.
YOU START THE FRENZY YOU DO NOT BECOME ITS VICTIM.

NOW, GENERAL YOU DON'T WANT YOUR HEART RATE TO JUMP
AT LEAST NOT YET.
YOU SHOULD REALLY THINK A LITTLE MORE ABOUT LETTING ME GET INVOLVED WITH THE SITUATION
AFTER ALL, WHO HAS MORE EXPERIENCE WITH DARKK THAN I?
"REALLY?"
YES, REALLY I CAN BE MUCH MORE THAN A SIMPLE TECHNICIAN.
BEING A LIAISON BETWEEN YOU AND DARKK WOULD BE MORE PRODUCTIVE.
LIAISON... PRODUCTIVE....
mmmmm I LIKE THE WAY THOSE WORDS ROLL OFF MY TONGUE AND OUT OF MY MOUTH. DON'T YOU?
HOW CAN HE TRUST YOU AS A LIAISON SINCE YOU DECEIVED HIM?*
"DON'T WORRY. I HAVE MANY WAYS TO GET WHAT I WANT.
"YOU'LL SEE..."
*SEE THE MINI SERIES #4! -BH

WHA....YAUAUAUAUGH!
UH... UGHHHH... UHHH!
"RELAX, GENERAL THIS WON'T TAKE LONG."
YOU WANTED CLOSE. COME...I'LL GIVE YOU CLOSE.
CLOSE WITHIN AN INCH OF YOUR LIFE.
BUT THAT IS ABOUT ALL YOU HAVE LEFT.
BECAUSE ONCE I'M IN—
YOU'RE OUT.
"FOREVER."

grggrggg!!...
ARE YOU QUITE FINISHED, MS BAHAREH?
Jhhh...ONE SECOND. I'M NOT USED TO HIS WEIGHT YET
I HOPE I DIDN'T COME TOO SOON.
YOU APPEARED TO BE HAVING A GOOD TIME.
SHUT UP!
YOU DIDN'T COME SOON ENOUGH, MR. WHITE
IMAGINE, THAT WHALE-LIKE FOOL THOUGHT I WOULD ACTUALLY SLEEP WITH HIM
I SIMPLY NEEDED HIM NUDE.
ALASKA. SITE OF UPROAR'S MOBILE SCIENCE STATION.
"NOW I CAN DEAL WITH DARK'K--
"MY WAY!"


THERE.. THERE... EASY--
UH! OHHH!!
UURGH! I HAD MORE CONTROL THAN THIS WHEN I WAS IN 3RADE SCHOOL!
uhhh . OH!


I CANNOT FOR THE LIFE OF ME FIGURE THIS OUT JUST TRYING THAT WAS A MAJOR PAIN.
MY GUESS IS THAT IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE POWER OF THE TENTH.
MAYBE IT WAS THE TENTH ALL ALONG WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR POWER GROWTH

NOW THAT IT'S GONE, YOUR TELEKINESIS HAS BEEN WEAKENED. YOU'RE NORMAL.
THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED... RIGHT?
umm. NOT QUITE.
YEAH. BUT AT WHAT COST?
JUST WHO IS LASTIC, VICTOR? IS HE A CREATION OF DARKKP

"LASTIC, OR LT. LONNIE MCGUIRE, AS VICTOR AND THE GOVERNMENT ONCE KNEW HIM, IS JUST ANOTHER FOUL STENCH ON A TRAIL OF DECEIT AND DEATH. ONE PERPETRATED BY THE EXISTENCE OF RHAZES DARKK.
"DARKK'S ENHANCED DNA GENETICS CODES WERE STOLEN.
"STOLEN BY ONE OF HIS OWN. A MS. BAHAREH TO BE EXACT.
"MS. BAHAREH AND HER OWN DEADLY POWERS COME FROM A SOURCE YET UNKNOWN TO US AT UPROAR.
"NEEDLESS TO SAY SHE HAS HER OWN AGENDA AND DOES NOT SUFFER FOOLS. EVEN THOSE ON HER SIDE
"SHE HAS MADE QUITE A LUCRATIVE DEAL WITH GENERAL GREER AND HIS SUPPORTERS. SHE TURNED NOT ONLY DARKK'S CODES OVER FOR A PRICE AND POWER, BUT ALSO A COMPLETE FILE ON YOU, VICTOR, AND ZORINA AS WELL.
"WE HAD A PLANT IN GREER'S SYSTEM WHILE THIS SCHEME WAS BEING DEVELOPED. NOT ANYMORE, I'M AFRAID.
"THIS GOES BEYOND A NEW ARMS RACE. THIS IS A RACE FOR HUMANITY.
"LASTIC HAS BEEN THE MOST SUCCESSFUL OF THE CRUDE ATTEMPTS TO CREATE THE PERFECT SUPER WEAPON.
"THAT IS WHY UPROAR WAS FORMED. TO PROTECT NOT ONLY THAT WHICH IS GOOD WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND HUMAN SCIENCE, BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY ...MANKIND ITSELF."

OTHER COUNTRIES WERE AWARE OF THIS NEW WEAPONRY, BUT IT WAS RUSSIA THAT TOOK THEIR OWN ROUTE TO ACHEVE THE SAME RESULT.
"THEY HAD STARTED A SUPER WEAPON WITHOUT DARK'K-TECH. THAT WEAPON IS HERE WITH US NOW.
"THAT WEAPON YOU HAVE MET.
"SHE IS
adrenalynn
BOSS? IF I ASK YOU SOMETHING, WOULD YOU PROMISE NOT TO GET MAD?
OF COURSE, Oddie
WELL, I'VE BEEN THINKING...
YOU WOULDN'T EVER MAKE ME DO SOMETHING THAT WAS WRONG...WOULD YOU?
SINCE YURI IS DEAD*, THERE'S NO ONE TO GIVE US ORDERS.
THAT MEANS YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR ORDERS. RIGHT?
*SEE ISSUE 1! -BH
THAT IS INCORRECT, Oddie.
I am not responsible for our orders.
THEN I WANNA KNOW--WHO IS?
I'M NOT TAKING ORDERS FROM ANYONE OTHER THAN THE KGB!
F.SHHHHSSSSSS
YOU NEED KNOW NOTHING MORE, ADRENALYNN, EXCEPT THAT YOU ARE IN VERY CAPABLE HANDS NOW...
STOP HIDING BEHIND THAT CLOUD OF DUST, WORM!
AHHH. IT'S REFRESHING TO HEAR SUCH VIGOR IN A YOUNG LADY'S VOICE. TO THINK FUJISAKI TRIED TO HAVE THAT QUALITY REMOVED FROM YOUR PROGRAM-- WHAT A FOOL.
DIDN'T HE SEE THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU ALL THE MORE POWERFUL? YOU ARE MUCH TOO IMPORTANT A TOOL TO BE USED BY SUCH A TINY MAN

"THAT'S WHY I HAD TO SAVE YOU, ADDIE. AND TO BRING YOU HERE, WHERE PEOPLE CAN TRULY APPRECIATE YOUR GREATNESS.
"MY NAME IS GULLIVER. I WILL BE YOUR NEW 'GUIDE.'"
LET'S DROP ALL THE LINES, PAPA SMURF, I WANT OUT OF HERE.
I'M SICK OF ALL THE TESTING, ALL THE PEOPLE SCREWIN' AROUND WITH MY BODY, AND ALL OF YOU YAHOOS ACTING LIKE YOU OWN ME
I MAY NOT BE A COMPLETE HUMAN BEING, BUT I GOT A REAL SOUL.
ONE THING'S FOR SURE. I'M MORE HUMAN THAN YOU!
YOU ARE CORRECT, CHILD. BUT THIS MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME
I HAVE SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS FOR YOU TO TAKE ON. YOU WILL FIND THAT I OFFER GREAT COMFORT HERE AT THE UPROAR FOUNDATION.
HERE, I OFFER YOU A SENSE OF FAMILY.
I DON'T WANT A FAMILY! THEY'LL ALL DIE ANYWAYS!
SCRCHHHH!
"I'LL SHOW YOU ABOUT LOVE--
"... OR FEEL LOVED?"
YOU DON'T WANT TO FEEL LIKE YOU BELONG SOMEWHERE?
LIKE YOU FIT IN?

--AND HOW PHYSICAL IT CAN BE!
I WON'T BE ANYONE'S PLAYTHING! I AM NOT A TOY!
WHO'S IN CHARGE WHEN YOU'RE DEAD?!
UHN!
tok! tok! tok!
addie when he's dead, our program will be dead as well
IT'S FOR YOUR OWN BENEFIT THAT YOU STOP YOUR ATTACK
GO TO HELL, BOSS!
ENOUGH HORSEPLAY!
CLK!
AA'EEEE!
WHRRRRLLL!!!
WELCOME TO YOUR NEW HOME, ADRENALYNN

CHICAGO.
MY BODY ACHES!
I CAN HEAR ALL THEIR LITTLE HEARTS BEATING...
I CAN FEEL ALL OF THEIR BLOOD RUNNING THROUGH THEIR VEINS.
MY PAIN IS UNBEARABLE!
AHAHAHA

image
9
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TONY DANIEL
BATT

CREATED BY TONY DANIEL

TONY DANIEL
CREATOR, PENCILS, STORY
BEAU SMITH
SCRIPTING ASSISTS
BATT
MARK PENNINGTON
SPECIAL THANKS TO MARLO ALQUIZA
INKS
PAUL MOUNTS AND KEN WOLAK
COLORS AND SEPERATIONS
KELL-O-GRAPHICS
FILM
BAHAREH HARANDI
EDITOR

previously in the tenths

ESPERANZA FINDS THAT HER TELEKINETIC ABILITY HAS DISSAPATED ALONG WITH VICTOR'S BEAST. UNFORTUNATELY FOR HER, SHE NOW HAS A MENTAL LINK TO LASTIC. SINCE LASTIC IS NOW ONE WITH THE TENTH, HE IS ABLE TO INVADE ESPY'S MIND. THE EVIL BAHAREH TAKES OVER THE BODY OF GENERAL GREER AND VOWS TO STOP RHAZES FROM REBUILDING SPRINGDALE. WE ALSO FIND OUT THAT IT WAS GULLIVER WHO HACKED INTO THE COMPUTER BRAIN OF ADRENALYTIX AND BROUGHT HER TO ESPY, THE TENTH, AND UPROAR.

FOR IMAGE COMICS
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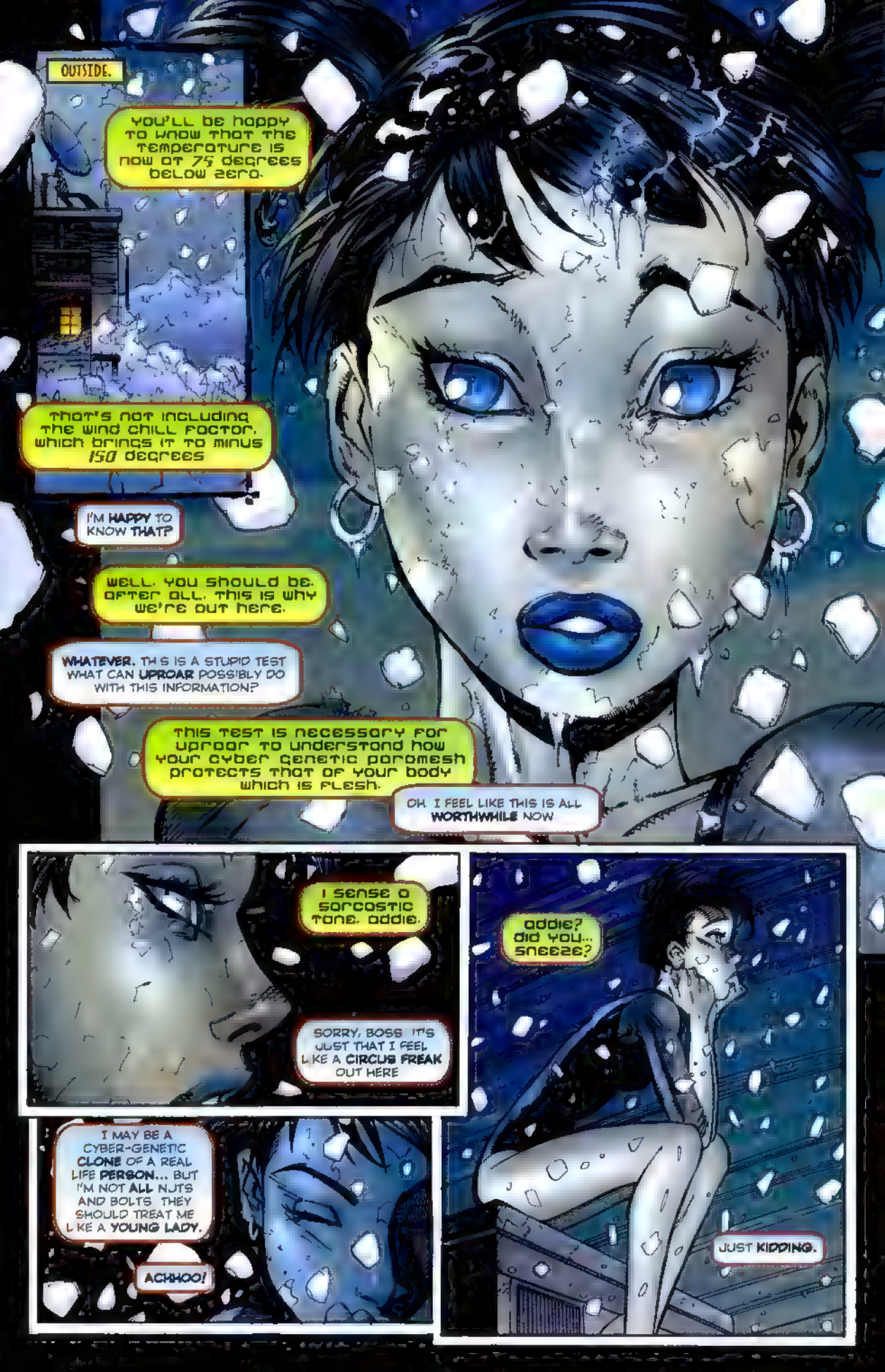
NO SWEETS AFTER DARKK
I'VE NEVER BEEN "NORMAL" BEFORE AT LEAST NOT THAT I CAN REMEMBER, ANYHOW
IT WASN'T EASY HAVING TO PLAY THE CARDS GOD DEALT ME. HELL, IT WAS DOWNRIGHT SHITTY.
MY MOTHER ALWAYS TOLD ME THAT THE POWERS I POSSESSED WERE "GIFTS" AND I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO BE SO "SPECIAL".
"SPECIAL" WAS MY MOM'S WAY OF SAYING "DIFFERENT"
IT WAS MY WAY OF SAYING OUTSIDER, FREAK, MISFIT

IT'S FUNNY, YOU KNOW? ALL MY LIFE I'VE TRIED TO BELONG TO BE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.
AND NOW THAT I'M CLOSER TO "NORMAL" THAN I'VE EVER BEEN, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL... DIFFERENT.
THANKS FOR STAYING UP WITH ME VIC I'M JUST A BIG SCAREDY-CAT.
TH S IS OUR LAST NIGHT HERE N ALASKA AND I CAN'T WAIT FOR IT TO END
DON'T WORRY, ESPY ONCE WE LOCATE LASTIC, WE'LL PUT AN END TO THOSE GRUESOME VISIONS YOU KEEP HAVING
JUST REMEMBER HE WANTS YOU TO BE SCARED THESE ARE JUST MORE OF HIS MIND GAMES.
I KNOW I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WORSE... LASTIC SHOWING ME HIS LATEST THRILL KILL OR DIRECTOR JAFFE'S ANNOYING TESTS!
prrrrrrrrrrrr...
MEOW
UM SPEAKING OF TESTS, DON'T YOU THINK ARUSA SHOULD UNDERGO TESTING AS WELL? YOU D D TELL JAFFE ABOUT HER CHANGES, R GHT?
ARE YOU INSANE?!!
"NOBODY LAYS A FINGER ON MY BABY!!"
MEEOW
REEEOWWW!

SORRY I ASKED
ARUSA! SEE? YOU'VE FRIGHTENED HER!
BESIDES, SHE SAVED MY LIFE*... AND YOUR LIFE EVEN A BUNCH OF DOCTORS AND SPECIAL STS POKING AND PRODDING HER ISN'T EXACTLY MY WAY OF REPAYING HER
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO D'D THIS TO HER
I WAS TRYING TO SAVE HER REMEMBER? **
I MEAN IT, VIC...JAFFE KNOWS NOTHING. IT'S OUR SECRET. YOU PROMISE?
PROMISE
* SEE ISSUE 4 OF THE ONGOING SERIES-ED
**SEE ISSUE 3 OF THE MINI SERIES-ED
IT'S NOT LIKE SHE WALKS AROUND GLOWING OR ANYTHING. I MEAN YOU CAN'T TELL THAT SHE'S NOT YOUR AVERAGE KITTY, CAN YOU?
BESIDES THE FACT THAT SHE CAN'T STAND TO HAVE YOU OUT OF HER SIGHT? NAA.
THAT'S NOT SO STRANGE I'M ALL SHE HAS.
BESIDES ZORINA, SHE'S THE ONLY ONE I CAN REALLY TRUST TO BE THERE FOR ME
UMMM NOT THAT I DON'T TRUST YOU, VICTOR
YOU ARE DEFINITELY EARNING BROWNIE POINTS FOR STAYING HERE TONIGHT
"THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW..."
LIGHTS OUT!
CLK


OUTSIDE.
YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT THE TEMPERATURE IS NOW AT 75 DEGREES BELOW ZERO.
THAT'S NOT INCLUDING THE WIND CHILL FACTOR, WHICH BRINGS IT TO MINUS 150 DEGREES
I'M HAPPY TO KNOW THAT?
WELL, YOU SHOULD BE. AFTER ALL, THIS IS WHY WE'RE OUT HERE.
WHATEVER. THIS IS A STUPID TEST WHAT CAN UPROAR POSSIBLY DO WITH THIS INFORMATION?
THIS TEST IS NECESSARY FOR UPROAR TO UNDERSTAND HOW YOUR CYBER GENETIC PAROMESH PROTECTS THAT OF YOUR BODY WHICH IS FLESH.
OH. I FEEL LIKE THIS IS ALL WORTHWHILE NOW
I SENSE A SARCASTIC TONE, ADDIE.
SORRY, BOSS. IT'S JUST THAT I FEEL LIKE A CIRCUS FREAK OUT HERE
ADDIE? DID YOU... SNEEZE?
I MAY BE A CYBER-GENETIC CLONE OF A REAL LIFE PERSON... BUT I'M NOT ALL NUTS AND BOLTS. THEY SHOULD TREAT ME LIKE A YOUNG LADY.
ACHHOO!
JUST KIDDING.

our radar is showing life forms within 800 feet.
THEY'RE HOPEFULLY COMING TO COLLECT MY FROZEN TV DINNER BUTT
I don't understand--
NEVER MIND-- JUST ENTERTAINING MYSELF
REMARKABLE! NOTHING HAS CHANGED SINCE WE SET HER UP OUT HERE 8 HOURS AGO.
THIS GOES BEYOND ANY TECHNOLOGY WE'VE EVER SEEN BEFORE
WHERE THE HELL DID THE RUSSIANS GET THE TECHNOLOGY TO BUILD THIS THING?
SHE'S NOT A THING, MARCUS SHE'S MORE HUMAN THAN YOU OR I COULD POSSIBLY IMAGINE
TH-THANK YOU, MR JAFFE DID I PASS?
THIS WASN'T THE KIND OF TEST THAT YOU PASS OR FAIL, ADRENALYNN THIS WAS MERELY A FACT-FINDING MISSION FOR US
THERE IS TOO MUCH WE NEED TO LEARN ABOUT YOU AND SO LITTLE TIME

WASHINGTON, D.C.
"IT'S OUT OF OUR HANDS, GENERAL GREER"
WE NEED TO PULL THE PLUG ON THE MONSTER BIO-WEAPONS PROGRAM IMMEDIATELY. RHAZES DARKK ISN'T TO KNOW OF OUR ATTEMPTS OF CREATING WEAPONS WITH HIS TECHNOLOGY
IF THIS GOT BACK TO HIM, IT COULD IMPLICATE THE WHOLE LOT OF US--NOT TO MENTION THAT WE'RE ONLY THE TIP OF THE CEBERG
WRONG, GREER. THE "POWERS THAT BE" AREN'T HAPPY WITH THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST DARK-TECH TEST SUBJECTS WE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS CRUCIAL INFORMATION MISSING IN THE DARKK-TECH THAT WAS SOLD TO US
WE HELPED RHAZES BUILD HIS INSTITUTION AND THEN HELPED DESTROY IT
AND WHO THE HELL IS THE NEW GUY? I DON'T REMEMBER EVER SEEING HIM BEFORE
WE HAVE WHAT WE WANTED ALL ALONG. HIS TECHNOLOGY...
THE ABILITY TO MAKE THE STRONGEST WEAPONS THIS WORLD WILL EVER KNOW
THERE IS NO MORE NEED FOR DARKK. HE MUST BE DESTROYED... FOR HUMANITY.
THAT IS MR. JASPER WHITE. HE'S JOINING ME IN WISHING YOU A SAFE JOURNEY--
--INTO HELL.
WHAT IS THIS... SOME KIND OF GAME?

GRRRWAAAAHH!
HEY, ADAMS, I THINK THERE'S SOMETH NG WRONG WITH THAT GUY!
THE DEC'S ON HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE YOU R PR:ORITY IS TO FIND LASTIC AND DESTROY HIM AND A.L OTHER EVIDENCE LINKING TO DARKK-TECH.
SEEP! HE'S TURNING NTO A WEREWOLF OR SOMETHING!
HEY--WHAT IS THIS?! THERE WERE TO BE NO MORE TESTS AFTER LASTIC!
GGRRAAAAAAL!!!!!...
GRRRRR...
"OH, THIS ISN'T ANY KIND OF GAME, MR SMITHERS.
"I AM ONLY TRYING TO MAINTAIN THE PROPER PRIORITIES IN REGARD TO THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS."
RIPPP
RIPPP
THIS IS NOT A TEST!
SHHHRRRPPP!
RPPPPP!

RRIIPPP!
AAHHHHH!
YOU GENTLEMEN WERE DOOMED FROM THE START. DIDN'T YOU KNOW THAT?
OKAY, GREER--- T-TAKE IT EASY, NOW
WE'RE JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS---
NOTHING PERSONAL---
WHEN YOU RES-DE WITH THE SHARKS...
"YOU SWIM WITH THEM, YOU EAT WITH THEM ---
"BUT YOU NEVER BECOME THE FEAST."
GRRRRRRRRR...

RAAAAHHHHRRR!
CHICAGO SEWER SYSTEM.
drip!
PLOOP!
PLOOP!
YOU JUST BECAME DINNER!
SUCKERS!
I AM GREER'S LAB RAT NO MORE!
I AM AN ENTREPRENEUR
SCREE! SCREE! SCREE!
FWOOSH!
A FORCE TO BE DEALT WITH AND PAID FOR MY SERVICES

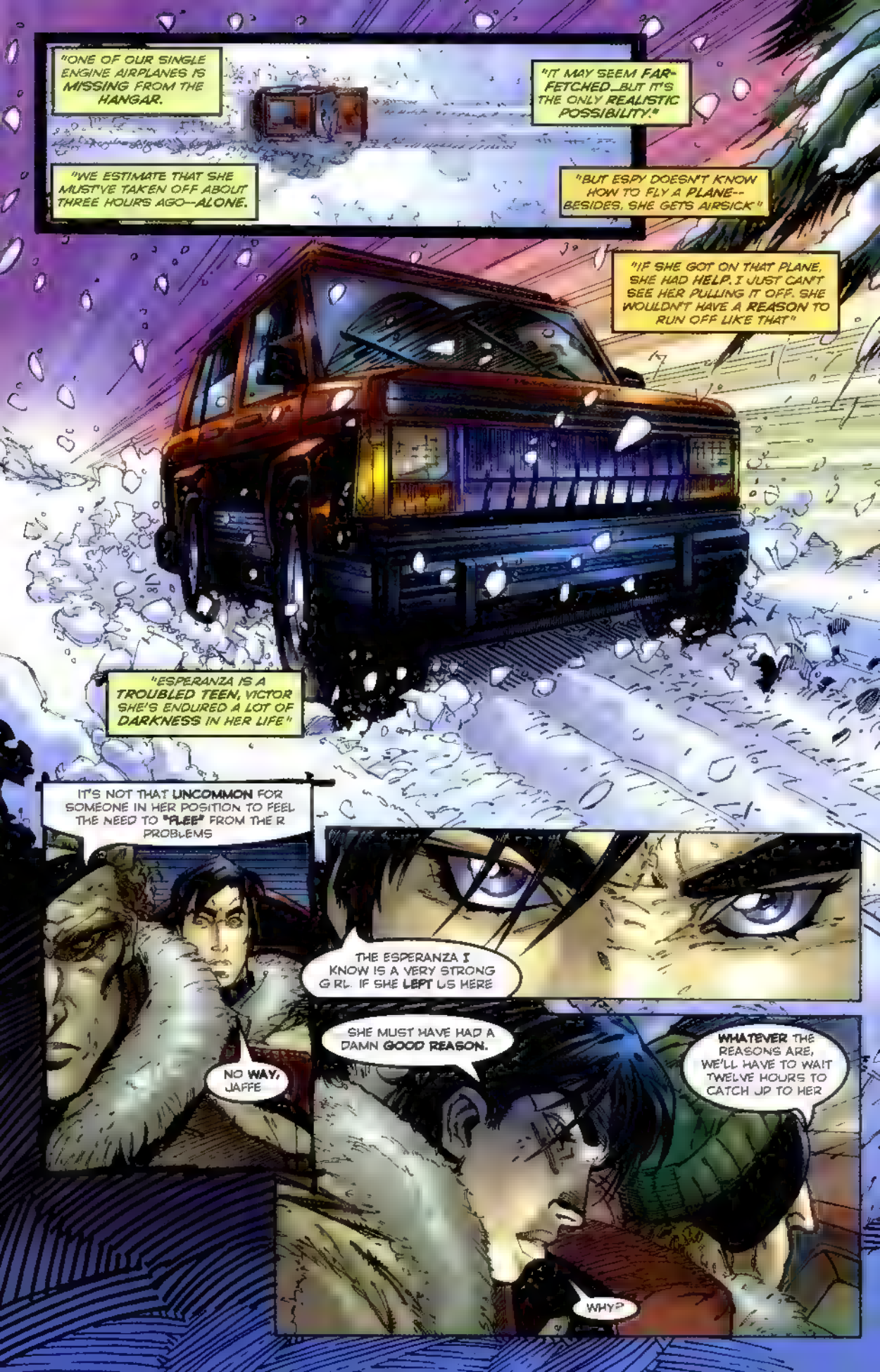
except maybe to
LASTIC WILL NOT BE A SLAVE!
CHOMP!
CRRRUNCH!
DRY!
I FEEL LIKE A VIRUS THAT HAS ALREADY CONSUMED ITS DISEASED-RAVAGED HOST!
I FEEL A LONGING FOR MORE THAN BLOOD NOW
I CAN'T GET THAT STUPID GIRLFRIEND OF VICTOR'S OUT OF MY HEAD!
I CAN EVEN FEEL HER THOUGHTS
TAUNTING ME
TEASING ME
YESSSSSSSS
THE THIRST THAT IS FLOODING MY BEING IS OUT THERE
BUT IT'S MUCH MORE THAN THAT

SSSPERANZA!
I CAN TASTE YOUR BLOOD RUNNING THROUGH MY VEINS!
No matter how much blood I consume, you're the only one who will ease my pain!
At lasssst I know what my blood calls for
It calls for my soul mate...
SSSPERANZA!
Come to me
Find me

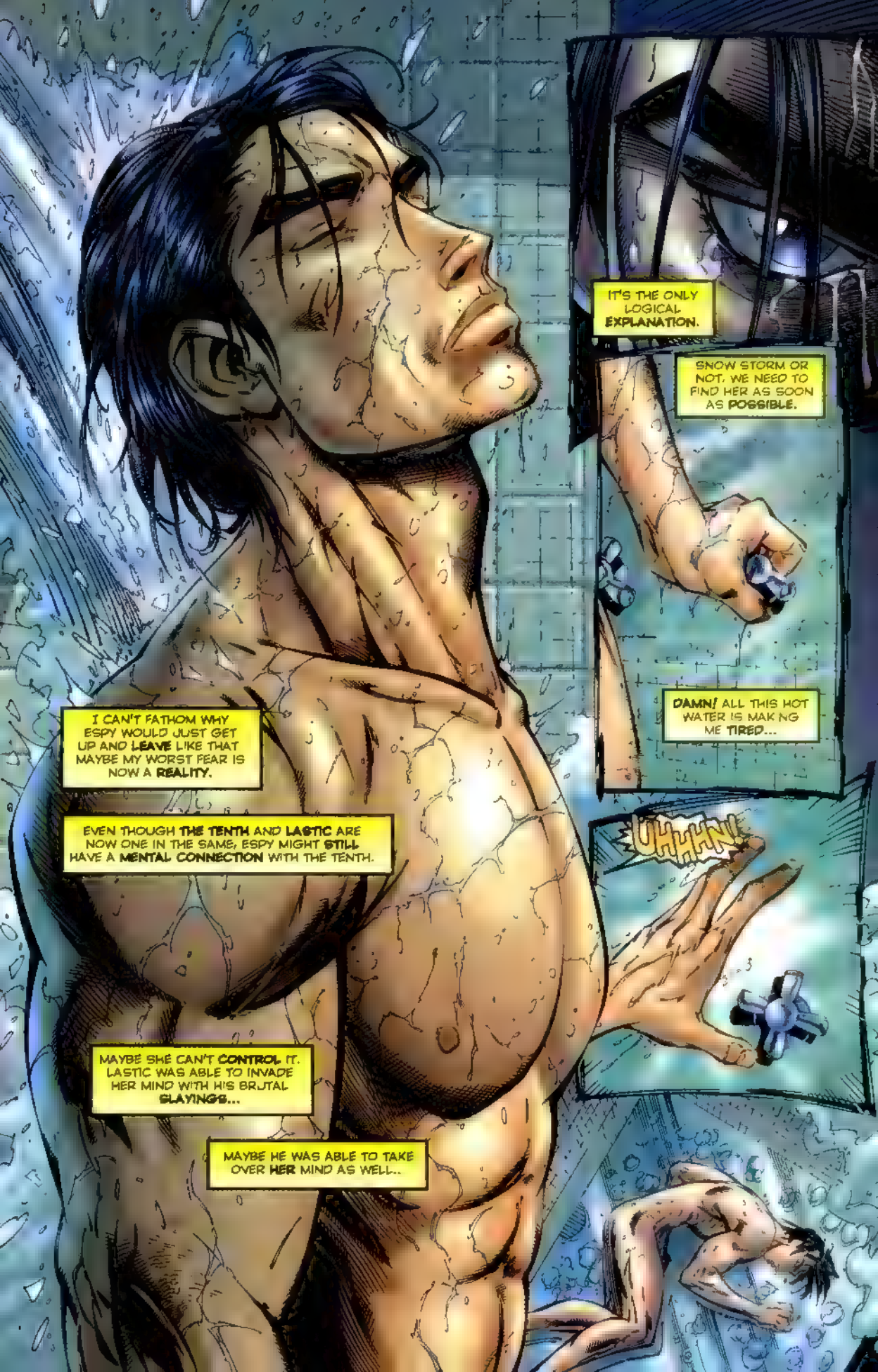
"THE WHEELS OF MY DOMINATION HAVE BEEN SET IN MOTION AT LAST
"MY BONES ARE CHILLING WITH ANTICIPATION, MY LOYAL SERVANT
"IT'S A GOOD FEELING."
I TRUST YOU HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR ME?
Yes, Darkk. I've already sought out the others.
AND ARE THEY READY TO DO FOR ME WHAT I ASK OF THEM?
They'll assume the roles you created them for, Master Darkk.
OF WHICH OF MY CHILDREN DO YOU SPEAK?
Evil, Stench-o, Slyker and Mystacia are all ready to act upon your will.
IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT I HAVE THE FULL COOPERATION OF ALL MY CHILDREN MY PLANS COUNT ON IT
THIS TIME I WILL NOT BE DECEIVED. I WILL GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO ENSURE THEIR LOYALTY.
BUT FIRST I MUST HAVE GOZZA AND THE TENTH AT MY FEET. IF THE NEW ERA OF "DARKK-TECH" S TO SUCCEED.
I somehow lost my trace on The Tenth. He's hiding somewhere good.
I'll find him.

AND WHAT OF THAT UNGRATEFUL BRAT, GOZZA?
GULIVER'S ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE GOZZA FAILED. HE DID MANAGE TO CAPTURE TWO OF GOZZA'S ELEMENTAL POWERS..
AS WELL AS MY RIGHT LEG.
I'LL CONTINUE MY SEARCH FOR THOSE TRAITORS. WHEN I CATCH UP WITH THEM, THEY'LL HAVE PLENTY OF COMPANY TO KEEP THEM ENTERTAINED.
I TRUST YOU WILL NOT LET ME DOWN, BLACKSPELL.
FWWIIPP
sssSSHHHH!

GONE SHE'S JUST PLAIN GONE. WHAT WOULD POSSESS HER TO RUN OFF?
SHE TRIES TO PLAY IT TOUGH ON THE OUTSIDE BUT I KNOW SHE'S JUST A FRIGHTENED CHILD ON THE INSIDE
IT'S GOTTA BE ROUGH FOR HER. SHE HAS NO FAMILY-- JUST ZORINA.
NOW I'M PLAYING THE ROLE OF THE BIG BROTHER SHE NEVER HAD
SHE'D BE CRAZY TO COME OUT THIS FAR OR MAYBE I'M THE ONE WHO'S CRAZY
IF THERE WAS EVER A RIGHT TIME FOR ME TO BE A MONSTER IT WOULD BE NOW. WITH THE MENTAL LINK WE SHARED, I COULD FIND HER EASILY.
INSTEAD, I'LL JUST HAVE TO USE WHAT GOD GAVE ME
LUCK...
AND INTUITION.
AND MY INTUITION TELLS ME
VBBROOMMM!
SHE'S GONE.
ESSSSPPPYYYYY!!
DIRECTOR JAFFE! ANY LUCK?!
LUCK.. NO! A LEAD MAYBE! COME ON BACK WITH US. A STORM IS APPROACHING!
I'M NOT GOING BACK WITHOUT ESPY.
BEL EVE ME VICTOR SHE'S NOT HERE. IN FACT, SHE'S NO LONGER IN ALASKA.
WHAT?
YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE THIS


"ONE OF OUR SINGLE ENGINE AIRPLANES IS MISSING FROM THE HANGAR.
"WE ESTIMATE THAT SHE MUST'VE TAKEN OFF ABOUT THREE HOURS AGO--ALONE.
"IT MAY SEEM FAR-FETCHED...BUT IT'S THE ONLY REALISTIC POSSIBILITY."
"BUT ESPY DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO FLY A PLANE--BESIDES, SHE GETS AIRSICK"
"IF SHE GOT ON THAT PLANE, SHE HAD HELP. I JUST CAN'T SEE HER PULLING IT OFF. SHE WOULDN'T HAVE A REASON TO RUN OFF LIKE THAT"
"ESPERANZA IS A TROUBLED TEEN, VICTOR SHE'S ENDURED A LOT OF DARKNESS IN HER LIFE"
IT'S NOT THAT UNCOMMON FOR SOMEONE IN HER POSITION TO FEEL THE NEED TO "FLEE" FROM THE R PROBLEMS
NO WAY, JAFFE
THE ESPERANZA I KNOW IS A VERY STRONG G RL. IF SHE LEFT US HERE
SHE MUST HAVE HAD A DAMN GOOD REASON.
WHATEVER THE REASONS ARE, WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT TWELVE HOURS TO CATCH UP TO HER
WHY?

"BECAUSE THE STORM THAT'S HEADING OUR WAY WILL KEEP US GROUNDED FOR AT LEAST THAT LONG."
"HER TIMING COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MORE PERFECT--
"--TO KEEP US AT BAY"
SSEE? FLYING ISN'T THAT DIFFICULT IS IT, DARLING?
MY BLOOD IS FEELING YOUR PRESENCE ALREADY
SSOON... OUR BLOOD WILL BE ONE
I CAN SENSE YOUR HOWLING SSOUL, MY SICK CHILD
FOR DELIVERANCE FROM THE HELL IN WHICH YOU SUFFER
I WILL BE YOUR SAVIOR.
AND YOU WILL BE MINE
SPISSH!
YOU CALL FOR IT TOO.

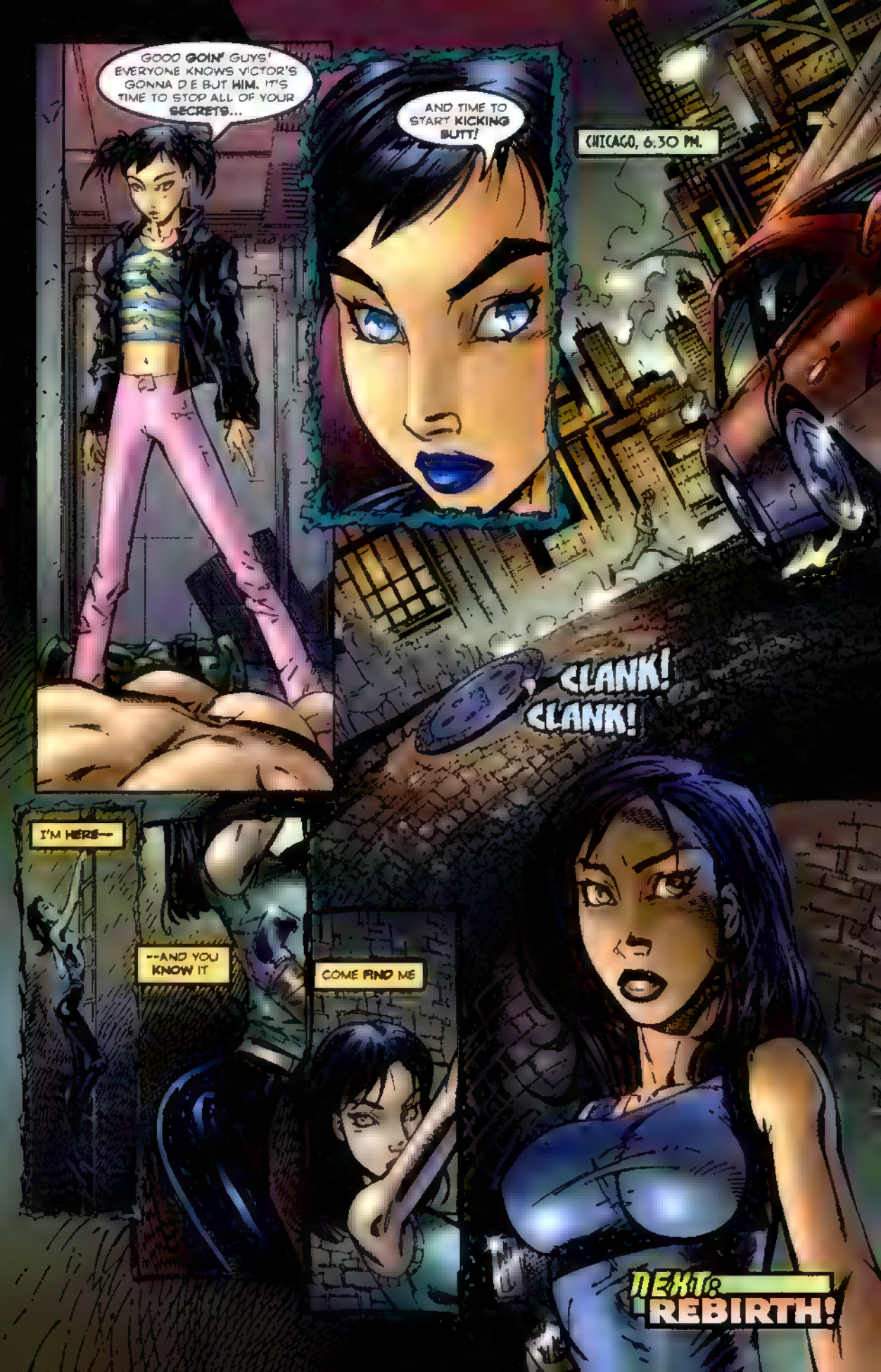

I CAN'T FATHOM WHY ESPY WOULD JUST GET UP AND LEAVE LIKE THAT MAYBE MY WORST FEAR IS NOW A REALITY.
EVEN THOUGH THE TENTH AND LASTIC ARE NOW ONE IN THE SAME; ESPY MIGHT STILL HAVE A MENTAL CONNECTION WITH THE TENTH.
MAYBE SHE CAN'T CONTROL IT. LASTIC WAS ABLE TO INVADE HER MIND WITH HIS BRUTAL SLAYINGS...
MAYBE HE WAS ABLE TO TAKE OVER HER MIND AS WELL...
IT'S THE ONLY LOGICAL EXPLANATION.
SNOW STORM OR NOT, WE NEED TO FIND HER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
DAMN! ALL THIS HOT WATER IS MAK NG ME TIRED...
UHHN!

"WE MUST MOVE SWIFTLY, JAFFE
"THERE COULD BE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES IF WE DELAY ANY LONGER
"GREER WAS NOT AS DISCRIMINATING AS DARK'K THIS WILL BE HIS DOWNFALL."
"CHOOSING DEGENERATE SUBORDINATE HUMANS AND TURNING THEM INTO INCOMPETENT WEAPONS
"LASTIC WILL SURELY CRUMBLE UNDER THE WEIGHT OF HIS OWN POWER
"HE IS LIABLE TO GET HIMSELF RECAPTURED BY GREER "
OR EVEN WORSE-BY RHAZES HIMSELF
THE TENTH POWER MUST NOT FALL INTO EITHER OF THE R HANDS
VICTOR DE LEON IS THE TENTH'S ORIGINAL HOST. IT IS TO HIM THAT THE TENTH MUST RETURN
OKAY, I UNDERSTAND THAT, BUT THAT'S NOT MY PROBLEM UPROAR WASN'T CREATED TO MA NTAIN DARKK'S BEASTS.
"IDIOT! YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND."
FWIPP!
WHA- - ?
SHROOM!!
JESUS!
UPROAR'S DUTY IS TO STOP RHAZES DARKK AND ALL OF HIS ABOMINATIONS, AND THAT MEANS THE TENTH MUST BE DESTROYED.

"IT'S QUITE SIMPLE, JAFFE YOU CANNOT STOP RHAZES
"WE CAN HOWEVER, STOP HIS SICKNESS FROM SPREADING. BY TURNING THE POWERS HE CREATED AGAINST HIM, WE CAN ELIMINATE HIS THREAT FOREVER.
"I ALREADY ACHIEVED THE FIRST STEP A FEW WEEK'S AGO, WHEN I SET UP A MEETING BETWEEN GOZZA AND THE TENTH
"I AM ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING RHAZES BACK INTO THIS DIMENSION, WHERE I CAN WAGE WAR AGAINST HIM.
"GOZZA WAS WISE TO MY SET-UP, HOWEVER...
"...AND ELUDED ME ONCE AGAIN. THIS TIME I MANAGED TO CAPTURE HALF OF HIS ELEMENTAL POWERS AND A PART OF BLACKSPELL WITHIN MY TALAS."

WITH N TH S LITTLE BOX, I HAVE A MERG NG OF TWO OF DARKK'S MOST POWERFUL CREATIONS
BOTH BLACKSPELL AND GOZZA ARE IN A WEAK AND VULNERABLE STATE NOW WE MUST MOVE SOON.
"GOZZA IS PERHAPS DARK'K'S MOST FEARED ENEMY I CAN MAKE A TEMPORARY ALLY OF HIM IF I PROMISE TO RETURN HIS POWERS--A PROMISE I WON'T KEEP, OF COURSE
"EARTH, WATER FIRE AND WIND. NOW HE IS BUT HALF THAT
"THOUGH A CHILD, HE IS A BEAST.
"THERE IS NO END TO WHAT HE CAN CREATE USING TECHNOLOGY AND LIVING TISSUE. HIS ARMY OF F.A.R.'S * CAN AID IN OUR BATTLE AGAINST DARK'K
"WITH GOZZA'S HELP WE CAN CRUSH THE OTHER SUPERMONSTERS, THUS ENDING DARK'K'S REIGN-- FOREVER!
*FULL ARMOUR RUCKUS-TR

MY PRECIOUS TALAS IS DARKK'S DOOM.
I NEED THE TENTH BACK IN HIS TRUE FORM IN ORDER FOR ALL OF THIS TO WORK.
SEE THAT THIS HAPPENS.
AND WHERE DOES VICTOR'S FATE LIE? WITH YOU OR THE TENTH?
VICTOR IS THE TENTH IT IS HIS DESTINY.
"VICTOR WILL SOON DIE WITHOUT THE TENTH YOU ALREADY KNOW THIS, JAFFE DON'T YOU?"
huh?
uhhh


GOOD GOIN' GUYS! EVERYONE KNOWS VICTOR'S GONNA D E BUT HIM. IT'S TIME TO STOP ALL OF YOUR SECRETS...
AND TIME TO START KICKING BUTT!
CHICAGO, 6:30 PM.
CLANK! CLANK!
I'M HERE--
--AND YOU KNOW IT
COME FIND ME
NEXT: REBIRTH!

The
Tenth
10
DANIEL
ALQUIZA
DAIT
MOUNTS
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TONY DANIEL
CREATOR, STORY, PENCILS

MARLO ALQUIZA
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previously in the tenths

ESPERANZA AND VICTOR PREPARE TO LEAVE THE ALASKAN TESTING FACILITY OF UPROAR. LASTIC (WHO IS RUNNING AMOK IN THE SEWERS OF CHICAGO, WITH THE TENTH ABSORBED WITHIN HIS OWN BODY), HAS MORE IMMEDIATE PLANS FOR EPSY. HOWEVER, HE ENTERS HER MIND IN HER SLEEP THROUGH WAY OF THE TENTH'S SPECIAL MINDLINK AND SUMMONS HER TO COME TO HIM. SHE CANNOT RESIST HIM. WHILE JAFFE AND THE SECRETIVE GULLIVER DISCUSS THE RETRIEVAL OF ESPY (AND THE TENTH FROM LASTIC), AN UNCONSCIOUS VICTOR DELEON IS BROUGHT IN BY ADRENALYNN. IT APPEARS THAT JAFFE ISN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO IS IN NEED OF THE TENTH'S POWER. VICTOR MAY DIE WITHOUT IT!

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NEW YORK CITY, 4:30 AM
CAWWW! CAWWW! CAWW!
A COLD WIND BECKONS ME
ITS MIST DESCENDS UPON MY BEING
A SUBTLE WAY TO GET MY ATTENTION
BUT NONETHELESS AN EFFECTIVE WAY
I WILL NOT STAND FOR THIS DISRESPECT!
SHOW YOURSELF OR BE GONE!
huh??
CAWW! CAWWW! CAWW!
CROWS?!
CAWWW! CAWWW! CAWW!
YOUR MASTER IS DEAD! YOU SERVE NO PURPOSE TO ME NOW!
MASTER I AM ALIVE.
CAWWW! CAWW! CAW!

KILLCROW!
MY LETHIFEROUS SERVANT HAS RETURNED FROM HIS GRAVE!
3:37AM, CHICAGO.
THE ROTTING UNDERGROUND PASSAGEWAYS...
PLOOP
A SMALL TEAM FROM LEPROAR SEARCH FOR ESPERANZA DEL TORO
ADRENALYNN ASSISTS AS THE SCOUT...
YEP! THIS LOOKS LIKE THE LAST OF IT
LEADING THE WAY IS A TRAIL OF ESPERANZA'S BLOOD-SOAKED CLOTHING.
I'M NOT READING ANYTHING ON MY RADAR, JAFFE I THINK THAT THIS TRAIL IS PHONY..
A TRAP PROBABLY..
...IF WE SPLIT UP FROM HERE, THERE'S STILL A CHANCE WE MIGHT FIND ESPY!
..OR HER BODY.
WE NEED TO FIND HER, ADDIE.
I'M AFRAID TIME IS NOT ON OUR SIDE.

I DON'T HAVE A BUILT-IN RADAR SYSTEM OR ANYTHING, SAM...
BUT I DO KNOW ESPY...
AND I KNOW WHAT MY GUT IS TELLING ME
THERE'S A CHANCE THAT ESPY MAY HAVE LEFT THIS TRAIL FOR US TO FIND
AHH JEEZ.
I'M STAYING ON THE MOST OBVIOUS PATH
DON'T BE SO RETARDED!
THAT FARTHEAD HAS YOU EATING OUT OF HIS HAND YOU GO 'HEAD AND FOLLOW YOUR INSTINCTS
I'M NOT COMING BACK FOR YOUR BONES!
HEY!
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING? WE NEED THAT RADAR OF YOURS!
SO LONG, LOVERBOY!

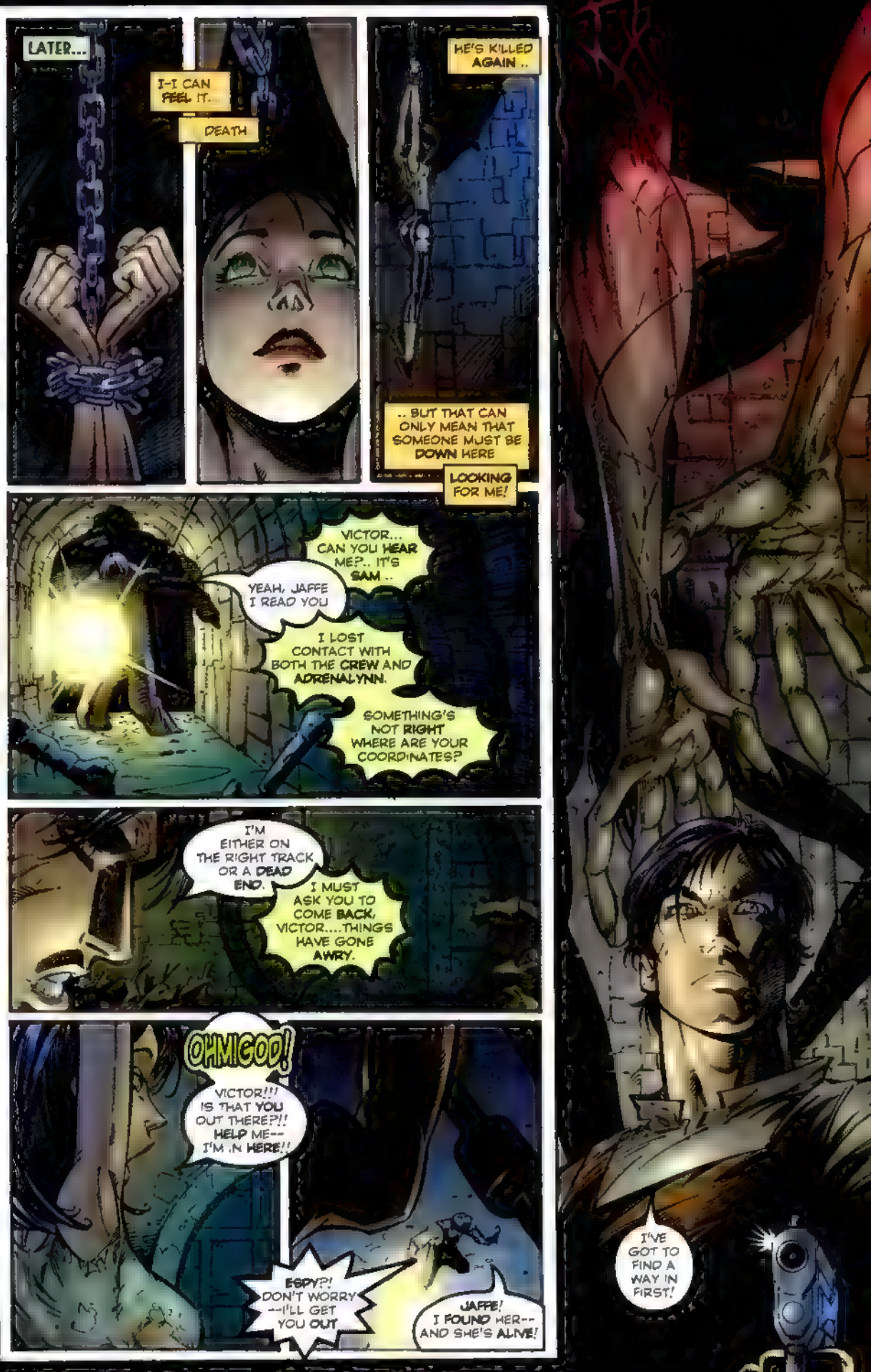
A HALF MILE DEEPER...
MORE BROKEN PIPELINES
LOOKS LIKE A TANK ROARED THROUGH HERE
BELIEVE ME--IT WAS PROBABLY SOMETHING BIGGER...
IT'S PROBABLY BEST THAT SHE DOES EXPLORE ON HER OWN, VIC. I'LL KEEP IN CONTACT WITH HER
WE, HOWEVER, SHOULD LIMIT OUR TRANSMISSIONS UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY
AND SOMETHING THAT COULD CLIMB.
SOMEONE BLASTED THROUGH THE CEILING
"I'LL SIGNAL IF IT'S OKAY TO FOLLOW."
--MORE LIKE TUNNELED THEIR WAY THROUGH. I'M GOING UP.
STRANGE. I CAN FEEL HIM UP HERE. IT'S AS THOUGH I'M BEING SUMMONED BY THAT BASTARD
I CAN ALMOST FEEL EGPY TOO!
IT MUST BE BECAUSE I STILL HAVE SOME OF THE TENTH POWER IN ME. I KNOW WHAT HE WANTS NOW.
HE WANTS ALL OF IT

BELOW...
YOU GUYS HEAR THAT?
THE SONOVABITCH IS HERE!
POW! POW! POW!
WAIT! HE'S OVER HERE!
PATOW! POW! PTO!
HOLD ON A MINUTE I THINK WE GOT HIM
SCREEEEE!
AAAAAAA!!!!!!!
WOOOOH!
HURK HURK!!
WHIPPPPPPP!

THE MANUFACTURED EVIL KNOWN AS
LASTIC!
THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A NICE APPETIZER.
BEFORE THE MAIN COURSE!
I KNEW I WAS RIGHT! THERE'S A LIFE FORCE UP AHEAD!
THE COORDINATES ARE STRAIGHT AHEAD, ADDIE... APPROXIMATELY 15 FEET FROM WHERE WE NOW STAND
PLOOP! PLUMP!
IT'S A WALL ..SHE MUST BE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF IT...
WELL, IT'S GONNA MAKE A LOT OF NOISE, BUT I'M GOING TO BLAST THROUGH IT

BRRAAACHHOWWW!
"THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, LITTLE ONE"
SCREE!
WHOA!
ARRGGH!
BATS!
SORRY FOR THE OVER-DRAMATIC ENTRANCE...
BUT I FIND THAT IT HELPS ME PUT THE FEAR OF DEATH IN PEOPLE.
IT'S OKAY TO FEAR, CH'LD.
...BECAUSE I AM DEATH.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WAS ABOUT TO TELL
YOU!

AACK!
VERY BRAVE
SCRUSCHH!
SHRAKKK!
CRASHHH!
"WHAT IS THIS?!"
YOU SICKEN ME!
"YOU'RE NOT EVEN HUMAN!"
I AM BLACKSPELL
AND I AM SEEKING A VERY BAD ABOMINATION DO YOU KNOW OF WHAT I SPEAK, LITTLE GIRL?
MAYBE
MAYBE NOT!
YOU WILL HELP ME FIND HIM THE TENTH!


LATER...
I-I CAN FEEL IT.
DEATH
HE'S KILLED AGAIN ..
.. BUT THAT CAN ONLY MEAN THAT SOMEONE MUST BE DOWN HERE
LOOKING FOR ME!
VICTOR... CAN YOU HEAR ME?.. IT'S SAM ..
YEAH, JAFFE I READ YOU
I LOST CONTACT WITH BOTH THE CREW AND ADRENALYNN.
SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT WHERE ARE YOUR COORDINATES?
I'M EITHER ON THE RIGHT TRACK OR A DEAD END.
I MUST ASK YOU TO COME BACK, VICTOR....THINGS HAVE GONE AWRY.
OHMIGOD!
VICTOR!!! IS THAT YOU OUT THERE?!! HELP ME-- I'M .N HERE!!
ESPY?! DON'T WORRY --I'LL GET YOU OUT
JAFFE! I FOUND HER-- AND SHE'S ALIVE!
I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY IN FIRST!

"WHY NOT USE THE DOOR?"
FWAMMM!!!
I KNEW YOU WOULD COME THAT YOU WOULD COME FOR HER
BUT IT'S A LITTLE LATE FOR THAT, MY FRIEND
YOU SSSEE ESPERANZA AND I
BELONG TOGETHER!
SCHREEK!!
ARHGHH!
CHRNGGHHK!
HER SSSOUL WILL COMPLETE ME!
UGHHHH!

AND WHEN WE'RE THROUGH AND I HAVE WHAT I WANT YOU WILL BE INCOMPLETE!
YOU LEFT ME FOR DEAD A LONG TIME AGO DELEON. NOW I WILL LEAVE YOU BLEEDING
AND BROKEN
" LIKE A FLY WITH NO WINGS OR LEGS
"HOW DOES IT FEEL?
"I HAVE SOMETHING TO LIKE YOU TO SEE BEFORE YOU DIE
"I WANT YOU TO SEE ALL THAT COULD'VE BEEN YOURS
BUT YOU WERE TOO STUPID TO TAKE "
VICTOR!! GET UP! PLEASE!
YOU LET ME HAVE IT REMEMBER?
" THE TENTH
" AND HER."

SNAP!
IT'S NOT THAT BAD VICTOR
DYING
I DO IT ALL THE TIME
EXCEPT I CAN COME BACK
"ONLY BETTER"
AND SOON ESPERANZA WILL DO THE SAME
AYIIIIIVII—
VICTOR!!!!
RAAAAAAARHHGHH!
ALRIGHT, BONNIE YOU LIKE DYING?!

THEN I'LL MAKE SURE THIS TIME I DO IT RIGHT!
WHAT'S YOU'RE THINKING?!
ENOUGH TO RIP YOUR HEAD OFF AND STICK IT UP YOUR ASS!
I BELIEVE YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO ME, LASTIC
AND I WANT IT BACK
BUT DEAD!!
JUST FOR THINKING.

WILL GET YOU NOWHERE!
CRACKK!
VICTOR! MY--MY POWERS! THEY'RE BACK!
YOU WEREN'T MUCH DIFFERENT WHEN YOU WERE A MAN, LONNIE
BROOOOW!
MAYBE YOU WERE A B'T UGLIER BACK THEN..
THOOMM!
AAAKKK!
"I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO ABOUT THAT FACE..."
THINKK!
SSSSSSSSSSSS!!

KICK HIS ASS!
HAHAHAHAHAHAHA
NEITHER OF YOU UNDERSTAND
IT'S TOO LATE
I CANNOT BE STOPPED
"THE DEED HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE"
"YOU ESPERANZA ARE ALREADY MINE"
no
NEVER!!
BRASHH

THUNKKK!
YAAA!!!!!!
"LIKE I ALREADY SAID."
"THE DEED HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE."
ESPY! KILL HIM!
KILL HIM NOW!
VICTOR!-- I CAN'T!
I'LL KILL YOU TOO--
I WON'T DO IT! I NEED TO SAVE YOU FIRST!
PLEASE---- YOU HAVE TO!
KILL HIM!
WHA WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

I WANT TO DESTROY YOU LASTIC
BUT I WON'T
AAHHHHGHGH!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME VICTOR
WAAAAAZZZAT!
*PLEASE...
FRAAASSHHK!
VRRREEEEEE
IT'S THE ONLY WAY.
YOU WILL NOT LEAVE HERE ALIVE

"BUT YOU WILL!"
HUH?!!
SKREE
SKREE
SKREE
SKREE
SKREE
SKREE
WELCOME TO MY HELL!
RHAZES DARKK AWAITS YOUR SERVICES--
HAHAHAHAHAHA
WAIT!!
I'M NOT THE ONE YOU WANT!
AAAGHHHH!
IT'S BLACKSPELL!
BUT-- DIFFERENT!
VICTOR --I'M SCARED!
I'll... TRY TO MAKE THIS AS COMFORTABLE AS POSSIBLE --BUT I WON'T PROMISE!
HAHAHAHA
AIIIIIIIEEEEEEEE!

YOU HAVE WHAT YOU CAME FOR, BLACKSPE... --LEAVE HERE!
IT IS FORTUNATE FOR YOU THAT I'M DUE BACK TO RHAZES NOW
"BUT FIRST..."
SPLSPLOSH!
AAAGHHH!
"A LITTLE GIFT."
I'M SURE WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER SOON.
GET CLEAR, ADDIE..
IT'S TOO LATE, ESPERANZA! HE'S GONE--
ARGHH!
MY GOD!! IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN!! ESPY--WHY??
VICTOR?? I HAD TO!
IT'S BACK IN VICTOR? BUT I THOUGHT THAT LASTIC HAD THE TENTH!

"YOU COULD'VE KILLED IT, ESPY.

"YOU SHOULD'VE...

"IT WAS VULNERABLE... IF ONLY FOR A SECOND--

"IT WAS OUR ONLY CHANCE TO RID OURSELVES OF IT"

THAT WAS A CHANCE THAT I DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE.

KILLING LASTIC AND THE TENTH M'GHT'VE MEANT KILLING YOU--

AHHHHGGRHGH!

AT LEAST GIVE ME THE DIGNITY

NHRHGH!

--OF NOT WATCHING THIS

victor... I-I'M SORRY.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, I SAW VICTOR CRY BUT ARE THEY THE TEARS OF GREAT PAIN..?

...OR THE TEARS OF HATE.

FROM LOATHING AND DESPISING THE CREATURE HE'S BECOME AGAIN

OR MAYBE NOW IT'S ME HE HATES

. FOR INFLICTING HIM WITH T.

HE COULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT THAT I WOULD DO IT? THAT I WOULD KILL HIM TO DESTROY THE TENTH.
.A COMPLETE AND UTTERLY SELFLESS ACT BY H.M. .
...BUT AM I SELFISH FOR KEEPING HIM ALIVE?
HE WOULD'VE CHOSE DEATH OVER BECOMING THE MONSTER
.. OVER BECOMING IMPRISONED AGAIN. FIRST BY DARKK .
...AND NOW BY ME
NEXT: GATHERING OF THE CHILDREN

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previously in the tenth:

LAST ISSUE VICTOR JAFFE AND ADRENALYNN TRACKED DOWN LASTIC IN THE CHICAGO SEWERS. LASTIC HELD ESPERANZA CAPTIVE AND THE "TENTH POWER" PRISONER WITHIN HIMSELF. BUT VICTOR AND THE GANG WEREN'T THE ONLY ONES SEARCHING THE SEWER TUNNELS. BLACKSPELL, EN ROUTE TO FINDING WHAT IS BELIEVED TO BE THE TENTH, CAME FACE TO FACE WITH THE RUSSIAN-BORN, ADRENALYNN. BEFORE DISABLING HER, SHE TOLD HIM THAT THE TENTH WAS NO LONGER IN VICTOR, BUT INSIDE LASTIC'S BODY. VICTOR FOUND ESPY AND THEN WAS CONFRONTED BY LASTIC IN THE PROCESS. AS THE BATTLE ENSUED, ESPY FOUND THAT SHE WAS ABLE TO USE HER TELEKINESIS AND HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO KILL LASTIC. BUT ESPY WAS THEN FACED WITH A DIFFICULT DECISION...EITHER KILL LASTIC AND THE TENTH WITH HIM(SACRIFICING VICTOR'S LIFE FOR THE WELL-BEING OF MANKIND), OR FORCING THE TENTH POWER BACK INTO VICTOR, SAVING HIS LIFE. BLACKSPELL FINISHES THE JOB FOR ESPY BY SHOWING UP AND TAKING LASTIC (WHO HE BELIEVED STILL HAD POSSESSION OF THE TENTH) WITH HIM. THE STORY CONTINUES...

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TWO YEARS AGO.
"A BIT ODD, DON'T YOU THINK?"
"A BRAVE AND CUNNING INDIVIDUAL A TRUE PROFESSIONAL"
THE OTHER THREE AGENTS HE INFILTRATED DARKKLON WITH WERE NOT NEARLY OF THE SAME QUALITY. IT'S SIMPLE HE'S NOT A HUMAN.
HMMM HIS TEETH ARE HUMAN
SO ARE HIS EYES GUESS I WAS WRONG ABOUT HIM IT'S A REAL SHAME
"IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT I GET A REAL CHALLENGE TO ENTERTAIN MYSELF WITH I ALMOST HATE TO SEE A SPECIMEN LIKE HIM GO TO WASTE "
" EVEN IF HE IS ONLY HUMAN"

GATHERING OF THE CHILDREN

PART 1

AT YOUR WISH!

SCHRAAAGH!

"MASTER! LOOK—"

groan

"MAYBE HE'S MORE THAN HUMAN AFTER ALL"

". .THE HUMAN IS STILL ALIVE"

"THAT'S JUST NOT POSSIBLE! HIS BODY PENETRATED CONCRETE --HE SHOULD NOT HAVE SURVIVED THAT!"

WE MUST EXPEDITE THE MISSION

I MUST COMPLETE THE TENTH CONFIGURATION IN ORDER FOR MY PLANS TO WORK

YOU ARE WRONG, EVE

HE IS HUMAN. HIS WILL TO SURVIVE IS REMARKABLE

MAYBE IT WOULD BE **HASTY** TO DISPOSE OF HIM AFTER ALL. I MAY HAVE USE FOR HIM YET

"THE FINAL PHASE OF MY CONFIGURATION CANNOT WAIT ANOTHER DAY FOR A TEST SUBJECT "

" HE WILL BE THAT FINAL PHASE. . ."

BRILLIANT WORK, EVE.

I, TOO, AM BAFFLED AS TO HOW HE GOT PAST ALL THE SECURITY THERE'S NO TELLING THE DAMAGE HE HAS ALREADY DONE TO MY BIO-GENETICS PROGRAM.

WE HAVE OBVIOUSLY BEEN BETRAYED I HAVE KNOWN FOR SOME WHILE THAT OUR FRIENDS AT THE GOVERNMENT HAD THEIR OWN AGENDA REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF MY TECHNOLOGY

RID MY SIGHT OF THIS MAN

HISSSSS!

" THE TENTH PIECE OF MY STRATAGEM!"
SMASHHHH!
FREE CLINIC
THE PRESENT.
WEDNESDAY, 8:55 PM.
CHICAGO'S NORTH SIDE.
THERE YOU ARE!
*RINGRINGRINGGGGGGGRR
I'LL JUST TAKE A FEW OF YOU. .
..I PROMISE THIS TIME
WHO THE HELL INSTALLED A BURGLAR ALARM IN A FREE CLINIC?!
I MEAN ISN'T EVERYTHING SUPPOSED TO BE FREE?
NGRINGRINGGGGGGGRRRIIRNNGGG!
OF COURSE, IF YOU HAVE MONSTERS AND VAMPIRE-TYPES STEALING FROM THE BLOOD DEPOSITORY, I CAN SEE THE REASONING..
JUST A FEW SIPS TO TIE ME OVER
RINGGGGGGGRRRIIRNNGGG!
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
AS SOON AS I'M HEALTHY I'LL GIVE BACK ALL THE BLOOD I'VE TAKEN. 'TILL THEN
.. THERE'S NO ALTERNATIVE

AFTER ALL. .I CAN'T GO AROUND RAIDING MORGUES AND DRINKING DEAD, STALE BLOOD.
BLOOD IS BLOOD. .BUT THERE'S A CERTAIN GROTESQUE QUALITY TO DRINKING A DEAD MAN'S BLOOD
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY FOR ME TO SALVAGE WHAT LITTLE INTEGRITY AND SELF-RESPECT I STILL HAVE IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT MAKES ME REMEMBER THAT I HAVE A CONSCIENCE
.THAT I AM STILL HUMAN
8:59 PM, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS.
"HE'S INHUMAN!"
"OH MY GOD!"
"--HE'S ABOUT TO TAKE OFF HIS SHIRT!"
" .MMMMMMM..."
"DAVID DUCHOVNEY...WHAT A BABE"
"ZORINA? CAN WE TALK?"
UHM YEAH, SURE WHAT IS IT?
CAN WE TURN OFF THE TV?
DON'T WORRY, I CAN LISTEN AND WATCH AT THE SAME TIME REALLY!
IT'S ABOUT VICTOR I'M REALLY WORRIED ABOUT HIM IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS S NCE I'VE SEEN HIM LAST *
UH-HUH THAT SOUNDS SWELL, ESPY
*see what happened last issue. -ph.

IT'S A RE-RUN--THEY DON'T. PLEASE, JUST LISTEN FOR A SECOND
OKAY, FINE .. SORRY.
GO AHEAD...YOU WERE SAYING ..?
CH-CH!
C'MON!
WHAT GIVES, ESPY! TURN THE TV BACK ON! IT LOOKED LIKE FOX WAS ABOUT TO KISS SCULLY!
WELL, I KNOW IT'S GOTTA BE HIM.
WHAT'S GOTTA BE HIM?
THE RECENT BREAK-INS AT THE CLINICS. THE ONLY THING MISSING IS THE BLOOD IT'S VICTOR. I KNOW IT IS
"SO WHAT IF IT IS?"
PRRRRRR
AT LEAST YOU KNOW HE'S DOING OKAY. HE'S NOT KILLING PEOPLE LIKE SOME VAMPIRE
I THINK IT'S BEST THAT YOU MOVE ON WITH YOUR LIFE. STOP FEELING RESPONSIBLE FOR OTHER PEOPLE ALL OF THE TIME.
WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF FOR ONCE.
REEAOOOOW!!

"I CAN'T HELP IT IF I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE BIG LUG. I CAN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT OF HIM ROAMING THE ALLEYS AND JUNKYARDS..."
" HIDING "
"...NOT ONLY FROM OTHER PEOPLE, BUT FROM HIMSELF..."
" . AND PROBABLY ME AS WELL "
"SOMETIMES I THINK I CAN UNDERSTAND HIM."

I FEEL SO DAMN GUILTY. I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT I RUINED HIS LIFE
ESPY, YOU DID WHAT YOU FELT WAS BEST IT WAS AN UNFAIR POSITION FOR YOU TO BE IN
C'MON--I MEAN YOU BASICALLY HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN HIS LIFE OR THE DEATH OF THE TENTH*. YOU CHOSE TO SAVE BOTH IT'S UNREALISTIC FOR HIM TO THINK YOU WOULD'VE DONE OTHERWISE
IT'S A GUILT TRIP HE'S THROWING ON YOU. IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO FORGET ABOUT THE PAST
"THANKS, ZORINA. I FEEL BETTER NOW"
YOU STILL GOING WITH ME TO MY FILM CLASS TONIGHT? IT'S A FRENCH FILM.
*see last issue for details
"I GUESS SO, IT BEATS STAYING HERE ALONE"
GOOD THEN WE'LL LEAVE AS SOON AS THIS SHOW IS OVER
SHE'S RIGHT
I KNOW ZORINA'S NEVER CARED MUCH FOR VICTOR. AT LEAST THAT'S HOW SHE ACTS BUT I THINK SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN WORRIED THAT HE'LL PUT ME IN DANGER. WE ARE ALL EACH OTHER HAS, AFTER ALL
IT'S HER RIGHT TO BE OVERPROTECTIVE.

NEW YORK.
"MY WORST FEARS HAVE COME TO HAUNT ME, BLACKSPELL"
SCREE!
SCREE!
SCREE!
THE GOVERNMENT HAS SECRETLY BEEN USING MY TECHNOLOGY TO CREATE THEIR OWN BREED OF WEAPONS
BUT WHAT I WOULD FIND INTERESTING IS EXACTLY HOW THAT CAME ABOUT.
WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR LEAKING OUT DARKK TECH.
IT WAS BAHAREH, LORD I KNOW IT WAS!
BE SILENT. I WANT TO HEAR FROM...
...HIM.
YOU SNIVELING OLD FOOL! YOU LISTEN TO OTHERS ONCE IN A WHILE, YOU MAY LEARN SOMETHING FROM THEM
IT WON'T BE LONG 'TIL YOU JOIN YOUR HEADLESS BODY IN MY BLACK LABRYNTH, MR LASTIC
HOW WAS IT THAT YOU CAME INTO CONTACT WITH THE TENTH AND HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO STEAL HIS ESSENCE?
I HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS YOU WANT GENTLEMEN. BUT FIRST WE HAVE MATTERS OF THE FINANCIAL PERSUASION TO DISCUSS BEFORE I OBLIGE YOU
I BELIEVE A DEAL IS IN ORDER
WHAT?!
YOU FOOL! YOUR GREEDY MIND HAS ECLIPSED YOUR SOUL! YOU WILL NEVER SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY AGAIN, YOU DECAYING ZOMBIE.
ECONOMIC STATUS IS THE LEAST OF YOUR WORRIES.

MISTER DARKK, MY FRIEND I DON'T WANT TO INSULT YOU
I AM MERELY TRYING TO BRIDGE TOGETHER A PARTNERSHIP I AM WILLING TO HELP YOU FIND THE TENTH AS WELL AS INCRIMINATE THE PARTY WHO SSOLD YOU OUT
BUT FIRST I NEED SOME GROUND TO STAND ON AND YOU'RE NOT HELPING THE MATTER ANY
"HELP ME RHAZES"
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
" HELP ME TO HELP YOU "
MAAGGGHH!
CHOKKSS!
"I AM NOT ASKING TO HOLD ALL OF THE CARDS"
JUST THE ACE!
FLIKSHHH!
HOW..?!

STAND BACK, MASTER--I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!
YOU CAN'T SAY I DIDN'T OFFER YOU A BARGAIN.
YOU SHOULD'VE MADE A DEAL WITH ME WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE!
CAWW! CAWW! CAWW!
MASTER, IT'S TIME FOR MY MINIONS TO SHOW YOU, THAT WE ARE WORTHY OF SERVING AND PROTECTING YOU!
CAWW! CAWW!
CAWW! CAWW!
CAWW! CAWW!
KILL THE BASTARD!
CAWW! CAWW! CAW!

CAWW!
CAWWW!
CAWWW!
YAAHHGG
FEAST, LITTLE ONES! DEVOUR YOUR PREY!
CAWWW!
CAW!
RHAZES DARKK MAKES NO DEALS!
CAWW!
CAWWW!
CAWWW!
CAWW!
CAWW!
CAWWW!
CAWWW!
CAWW!
THAT'S ENOUGH, KILLKROW I THINK HE'LL TALK NOW
YES!
YES!
YESS!!

OKAY!
OKAY!
LET'S TALK!
THE CHICAGO RIVER,
10:15 PM.
THIS IS IT
THE PLACE WHERE I'M SUPPOSED TO MEET THE WORST HORROR OF OUR TIME
I ONLY HOPE THAT GULLIVER KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING WHEN HE ARRANGED THIS MEETING
PLOOP
HE MAY NOT EVEN GO FOR THE DEAL WHAT THEN?
DO WE SHAKE HANDS AND WALK AWAY?
I DON'T THINK SO. ONLY ONE OF US WILL WALK AWAY AND IT WON'T BE ME
HUH? THERE'S SOMETHING BELOW IN THE WATER I CAN SEE IT GLIMMERING
IT'S HIM!

IT'S GOZZA!
SPLASHSHSH!
GREETINGS AND SALUTATIONS.
YOU MUST BE SAM JAFFE.
I BELIEVE YOU HOLD SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO ME...
MY ELEMENTAL POWERS ARE HELD AT YOUR RANSOM...
...AND I HAVE COME TO TAKE BACK WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY MINE.

*translated from the French. -bh

<I DON'T KNOW, BERNADETTE I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD DRAG YOU INTO ALL OF THIS.>
<PLEASE, JACQUES . LET ME INTO YOUR WORLD >
<I JUST KNOW THAT I LOVE YOU AND I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU GET HURT BECAUSE OF ME >
<I HAVE A TERRIBLE SECRET. .>
<HUH?>
<I HAVE BEEN HIDING BEHIND THE MASK OF HUMANITY....>
<I'VE BEEN LEADING A DOUBLE LIFE.>
<A LIFE THAT I AM ASHAMED OF.. .>
<BUT NOW I WILL COME OUT FROM UNDERNEATH MY DISGUISE AND SHOW YOU WHO. WHAT I REALLY AM >

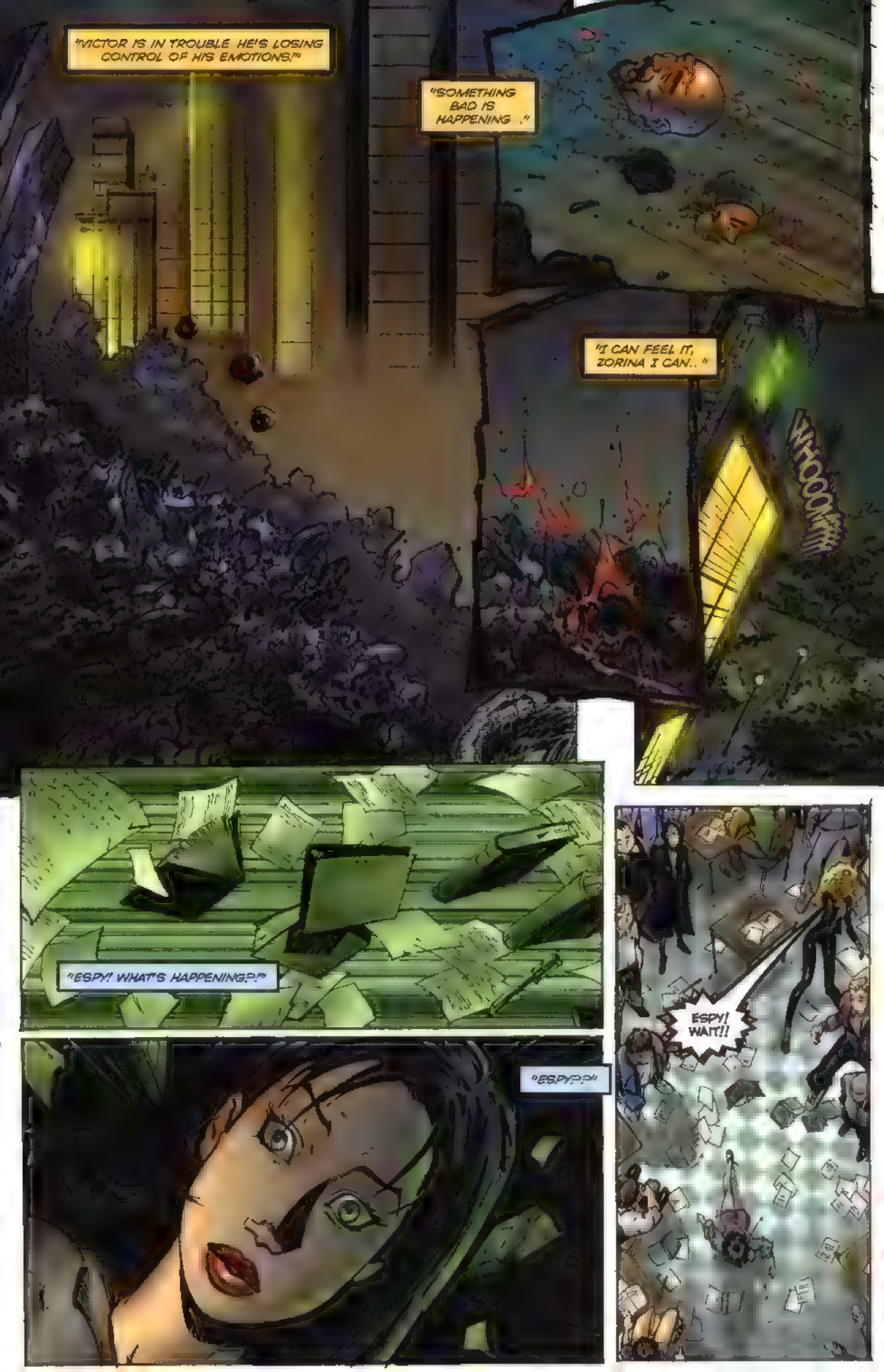
<THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT ME >
<YOU'RE GAY I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED >
<NO, BERNADETTE!>
<I-I'M A...>
<JACQUES! Y-YOUR HAND!!>
<I'M A WEREWOLF >
<AAAAIIIIEEEEEE!!!>
<STAY AWAY FROM ME...DO YOU HEAR?! I SAID STAY AWAY!!!>
<I LOVE YOU!>
<AA!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!>
HEY!
LOOKIE THERE! IT'S CASPER!
DON'T THE FOO' KNOW THIS CABRINI GREEN?
I'M TELLIN' YA T'AINT SAFE 'ROUND HERE. HE SHOULD KNOW THAT
HEY, BOY!
DON'T YOU KNOW NOTHIN'? YOU CAN'T JUST COME WALKIN' THROUGH HERE, ACKIN LIKE YOU OWN DA SHIT.
YEAH! SHOW US YO PASSPORT, DUDE
LISTEN, FELLAS.. I'M JUST PASSING THROUGH. I'LL BE OUT OF YOUR HAIR AND YOU WON'T KNOW I WAS EVEN HERE.

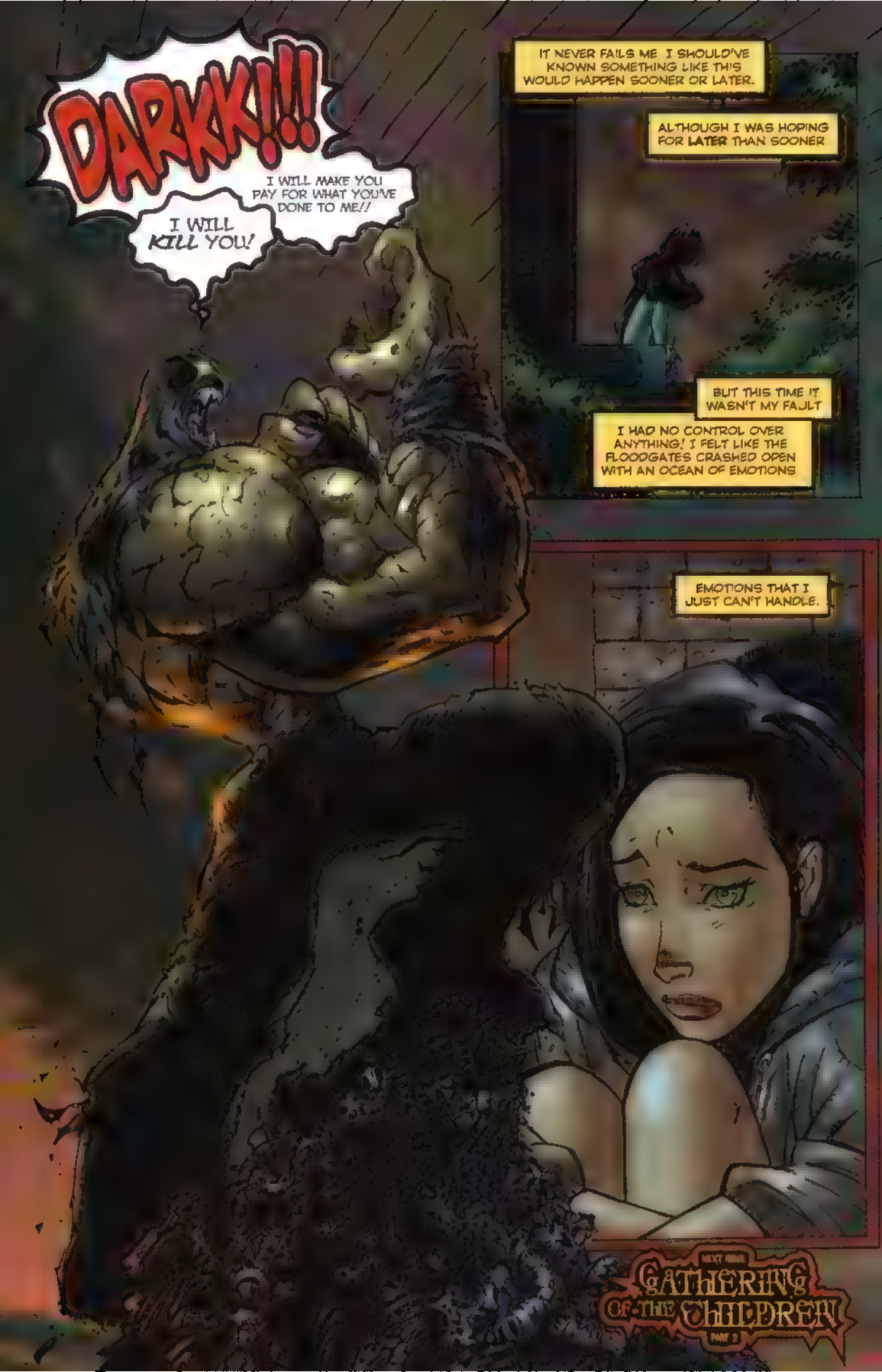
IT'S THAT EASY, UH? YOU AT LEAST HAVE TO PAY A TOLL.
DAT'S RIGHT, G! MAKE HIS ASS PAY DA TOLL!
PAY DA DAMN TOLL! DEN YOU GOTSTA PAY THE TAXES!
ALL RIGHT, SUNSHINE, PAY UP
I-I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY I DON'T WANT ANY KIND OF TROUBLE, EITHER
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
AAAAAARHG!

CRACKK!
<STEP AWAY FROM HIM, BERNADETTE! HE'S DANGEROUS!>
<MARK VAN SLYKE! PUT DOWN THAT GUN! HE WON'T HURT ANYBODY!>
ROAARGH!

<NO!!!>
<MY GOD. YOU KILLED HIM...YOU KILLED HIM!>
<HE WASN'T A MONSTER HE WAS JUST A MAN! A MAN, I TELL YOU!>
<GET UP, JACQUES >
AH SHIT! WHAT NOW?
CHRIST! HE'S STILL STANDING?! WHAT KINDA BULLETS ARE IN TH S DAMN GUN?
DAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR PLAYIN' WITH THAT LIL' ASS GUN!
NOW WE GOTTA JACK 'IM
I TOLD YOU . I DIDN'T WANT ANY TROUBLE
<HE'S CHANGING BACK TO A MAN-->
NOW IT'S TOO LATE.. YOU SHOULD'VE LISTENED TO ME
"TAKE IT EASY MAN."
<I AM NOT A MAN . >

I'M A MONSTER!!
ESPY...? YOUR HEAD IS ..UH, GLOWING
OH MY GOD, ZORINA SOMETHING IS HAPPENING .
"...TO VICTOR!"
"I CAN FEEL HIS POWER"
"AND I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO EXPLODE!"


"VICTOR IS IN TROUBLE. HE'S LOSING CONTROL OF HIS EMOTIONS!"
"SOMETHING BAD IS HAPPENING ."
"I CAN FEEL IT, ZORINA I CAN.. "
WHOOOSH
"ESPY! WHAT'S HAPPENING?!"
"ESPY?!"
ESPY! WAIT!!


DARKK!!!
I WILL MAKE YOU PAY FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO ME!!
I WILL KILL YOU!
IT NEVER FAILS ME I SHOULD'VE KNOWN SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN SOONER OR LATER.
ALTHOUGH I WAS HOPING FOR LATER THAN SOONER
BUT THIS TIME IT WASN'T MY FAULT
I HAD NO CONTROL OVER ANYTHING! I FELT LIKE THE FLOODGATES CRASHED OPEN WITH AN OCEAN OF EMOTIONS
EMOTIONS THAT I JUST CAN'T HANDLE.
NEXT ISSUE
GATHERING OF THE CHILDREN
PART 2

Tarot
image
12

previously in the tenths

VICTOR FINDS HIMSELF BECOMING MORE SAVAGE WITH EACH PASSING DAY. HE HAS RESORTED TO STEALING BLOOD FROM THE COUNTY BLOOD DEPOSITORIES TO CONTROL HIS BEAST. THIS IS ONLY A TEMPORARY REMEDY AND HE KNOWS IT. EVEN THOUGH HE BATTLES TO KEEP THE TENTH AT BAY, HE KNOWS THAT SOONER OR LATER, THE MONSTER IS GOING IS GOING TO WIN. THE DIVISION BETWEEN HIMSELF AND ESPY HAVE TAKEN THEIR TOLL NOT ONLY ON HIS SOUL, BUT QUITE POSSIBLY HIS PHYSICAL WELL-BEING, TOO. JAFFE WAITS BY THE CHICAGO LAKEFRONT TO MEET WITH GOZZA IN AN ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE HIM TO JOIN UPROAR'S ARSENAL AGAINST RHAZES DARKK. GOZZA HAS PLANS OF HIS OWN.

TONY DANIEL
STORY AND ART

BONGOTONE'S
PAUL MOUNTS
AND KEN WOLAK
COLORS AND SEPERATIONS

KELL-O-GRAPHICS
QUANTUM COLOR FX
FILM

BAHAREH HARANDI
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FOR IMAGE COMICS
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ART DIRECTOR
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CONTROLLER
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DIRECTOR OF SALES
ROB MATSON

DIRECT SALES
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"JAFFE?
"ARE YOU AWAKE?
"DON'T FALL ASLEEP ON ME NOW!"
ughh...
SLShhh!
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, TECH INSTITUTE BUILDING.
7:55 PM.

IT'S NO FUN PLAYING BY MYSELF! BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT I WAS GETTING BORED OF YOU ANYHOW SO LET'S STOP...

JUST TELL ME WHERE YOU PUT THAT TALAS...

YOU KNOW .. THE ONE WITH MY POWERS TRAPPED INSIDE IT!

I-I D-DON'T KNOW

...AAHHG!

F-F-FREEZING!!

THOOM!

THAT'S RIGHT! HE TOLD ME EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU

MASTER!!! I HAVE FOUND THE OBJECT OF OUR SEARCH.

THE TALAS IS WITHIN THIS CRATE. IT WAS BURIED UNDER 3 FEET OF CONCRETE

VERY GOOD, SLAVE! NOW PUT IT DOWN SO I CAN OPEN IT

WELL, I CAN'T DO NUTHIN' ABOUT IT! YOU'RE THE STUPID ONE WHO WON'T GIVE ME BACK MY EARTH AND FIRE FORCES.

"SIDES..I ALREADY KNOW THAT YOU HAVE THE TALAS.

"GULLIVER TOLD ME SO."

WHA---?!

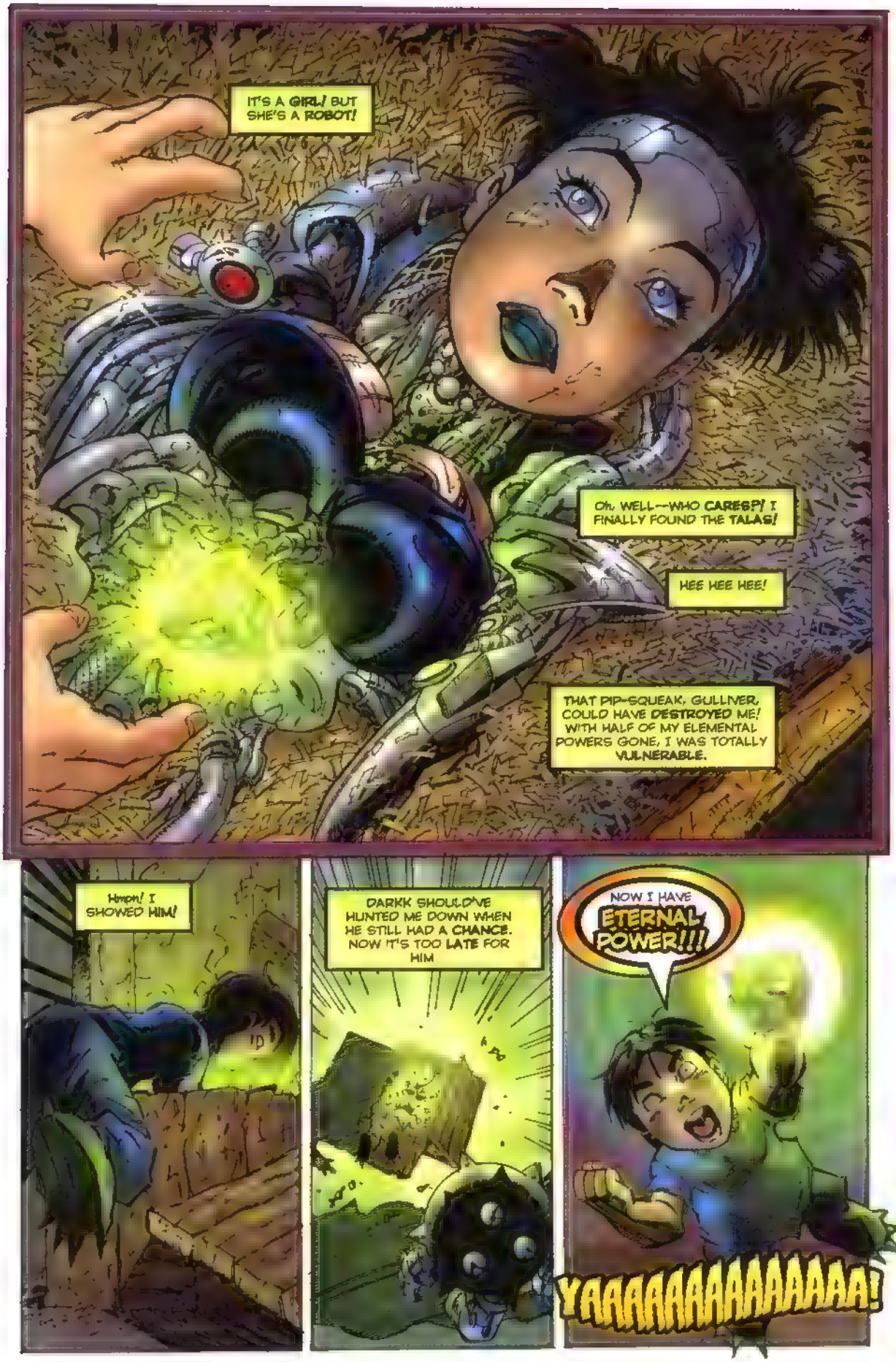
AS YOU WISH, MASTER GOZZA

THUMPP!

OH YEAH! I CAN FEEL IT NOW!

KA-CHING!

JEEPERS!


IT'S A GIRL! BUT SHE'S A ROBOT!
Oh, WELL--WHO CARES?! I FINALLY FOUND THE TALAS!
HEE HEE HEE!
THAT PIP-SQUEAK, GULLIVER, COULD HAVE DESTROYED ME! WITH HALF OF MY ELEMENTAL POWERS GONE, I WAS TOTALLY VULNERABLE.
Hmph! I SHOWED HIM!
DARKK SHOULD'VE HUNTED ME DOWN WHEN HE STILL HAD A CHANCE. NOW IT'S TOO LATE FOR HIM
NOW I HAVE ETERNAL POWER!!!
YAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!

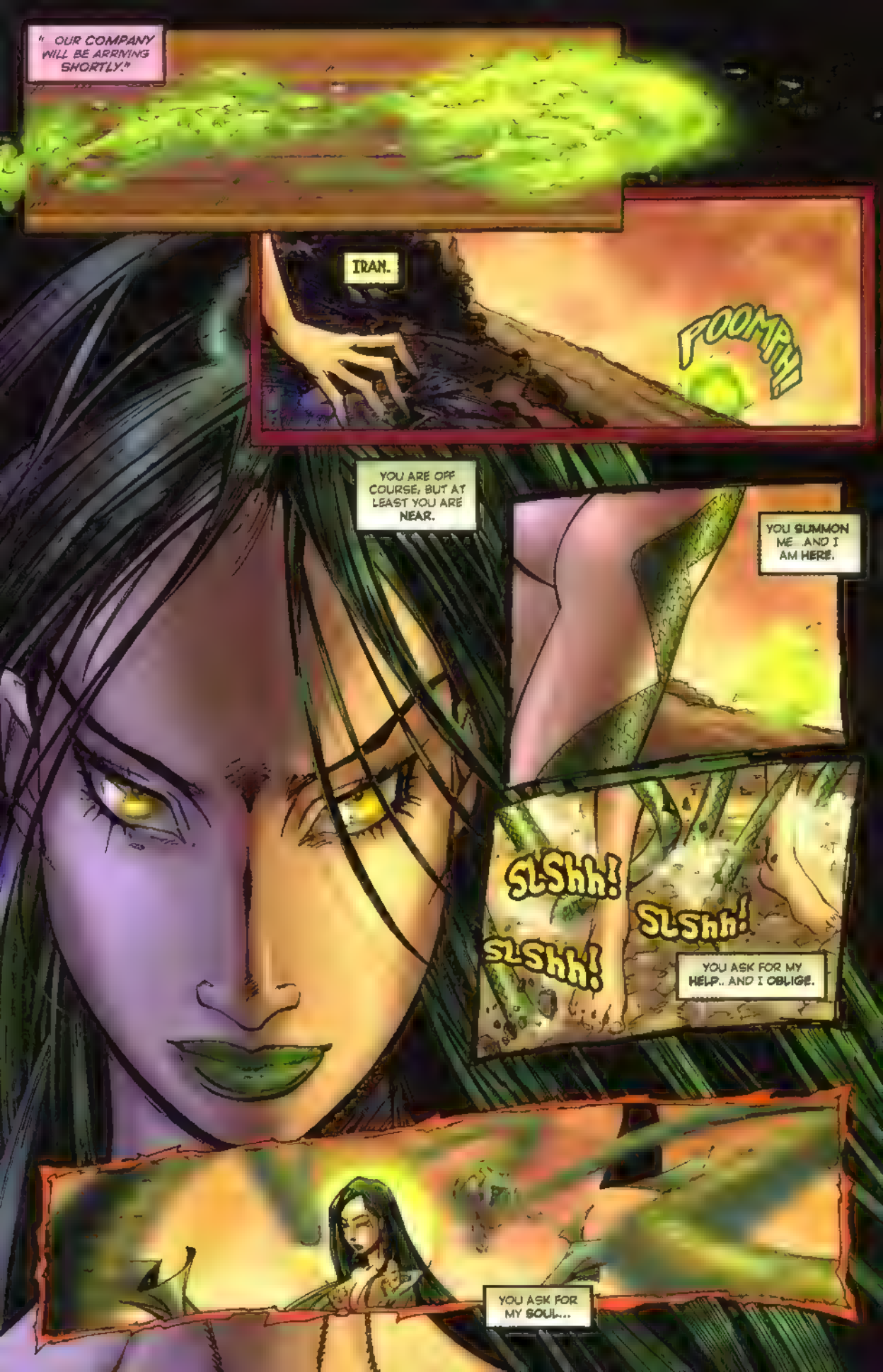
COME OUT, COME OUT WHEREVER YOU ARE!
WAAAOOWW
"AT LAST
"YOUR TIME HAS COME, RHAZES DARKK
"YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN WHEN YOU CREATED ME THAT THIS WOULD HAPPEN.
"AFTER ALL...IT IS MY DESTINY...
"...AND YOUR FATE.
"ALL OF THE PIECES ARE FINALLY IN PLACE, DARKK. YOU'VE SERVED YOUR PURPOSE...
"...NOW YOU WILL DIE."

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, SWIFT HALL.
8:01 PM
THANKS FOR MEETING ME, ESPY
HOW'D YOUR PSYCHOLOGY EXAMS GO?
NO COMMENT!
ZORINA--I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU. IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE YOU'RE TAKING ANY OF YOUR CLASSES SERIOUSLY. WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU FLUNK OUT?
DON'T WORRY, ESPY. I HAVE A PLAN.
A PLAN? WHAT KIND OF PLAN?
WELL, YOU CAN SIT IN ON SOME OF THE CLASSES WITH ME AND THAT WAY
PEAS N CARROTS, PEAS N CARROTS, PEAS N CARROTS! I CAN'T HEAR YOU!!
DARN IT, ESPY! YOU NEED TO GET OVER YOUR FEAR OF "NOT FITTING IN"
NOBODY KNEW IT WAS YOU THAT CAUSED YESTERDAY'S FIASCO IN FILM STUDY *
* see last issue-bh
"THEN WHY IS EVERYONE STARING AT US?"
"BECAUSE WE ARE TWO SUPER FINE BABES!"
SO WHAT DO YOU SAY?
I JUST CAN'T NOT RIGHT NOW, ANYWAY
"HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE TECH BUILDING? THERE'S AN AMBULANCE."
"OHMIGOD, ZORINA! THAT BUILDING CLOSES AT 6:00--JAFFE WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET WITH ME WHEN HE FINISHED HIS WORK THERE! "

NEW YORK.
"THERE ARE TO BE NO LIES SPOKEN BETWEEN US, GREER
"I AM FULLY AWARE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SECURITY BREECHES CONCERNING MY TECHNOLOGY."
I ALSO KNOW THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS ATTEMPTS* TO MAKE WEAPONS OF WAR USING THIS SAME TECHNOLOGY
FEEBLE ATTEMPTS. AT BEST NONETHELESS, AN EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE. I DON'T NEED TO TELL YOU THAT THIS PUTS YOUR AND MY RELATIONSHIP IN A RATHER PRECARIOUS POSITION.
YOU MADE A DEAL WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, DARKK. WHAT DID YOU EXPECT...
...THEIR LOYALTY?
"THEIR"?!
I PITY YOU, DARKK. YOU REALLY HAD THE WHOLE WORLD IN THE PALM OF YOUR ALIEN HAND.
WHAT?!!
THIS PLANET IS YOUR ONLY HOPE TO SAVE OUR KIND, DARKK. I AM ONLY LOOKING OUT FOR OUR PEOPLE'S BEST INTERESTS.
POW
KRAK!!

BUT YOU TRUSTED TOO MANY PEOPLE. TOOK TOO MANY RISKS. SOMEONE HAD TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR AGENDA WAS PROPERLY ATTENDED TO
YOU CREATED TEN SUPER-POWERED BE NGS TO AID IN YOUR ENDEAVOR, BUT YOUR LACK OF REAL LEADERSHIP CAUSED FIGHTING AMONGST THEMSELVES
I AM UNITING THEM ONCE AND FOR ALL
.. AND THE DARKKEN NG OF EARTH IS SOON TO FOLLOW
BAHAREH! YOU TRA TOROUS BITCH!
OF COURSE NOT YOU BL ND, ANC ENT FOOL!
THERE'S NOWHERE FOR YOU TO TURN TO NOW, RHAZES! I'LL TRY TO MAKE TH S AS PAINLESS AS POSS BLE..
BUT I WON'T MAKE ANY PROMISES!
I DID NOT FORSEE TH S!

YOURS WILL BE A SLOW AND PAINFUL DEATH, MY SWEET CHILD
HUH?!
WHOOSH!
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT YOUR POWERS WON'T WORK ON A FELLOW DARKKEIL®, ESPECIALLY A DARKKEIL THAT IS AS YOUTHFUL AND VIGOROUS AS ME!
I AM NOT A DARKKEIL, BAHAREH. YOU TRIED TO KILL ME.. NOW I WILL HAVE MY VENGEANCE! PLEASE STAND BACK, MASTER... WHILE I KILL THIS SABOTEUR
RUMMBLE!
THE ONLY KILLING TO BE DONE HERE .. WILL BE DONE BY ME!
IT'S AMAZING THAT YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD REBUILD YOUR OLD EMPIRE, RHAZES. SPRINGDALE WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE END. IT WAS TIME FOR YOU TO STEP DOWN AND LET THE NATURE YOU CREATED TAKE ITS COURSE
SIT TIGHT, GENTLEMEN.
BUT YOU ARE STUBBORN AND YOU ARE OLD. I RESPECT YOU, RHAZES... BUT I MUST SEE TO IT THAT YOU ARE DESTROYED.


" OUR COMPANY WILL BE ARRIVING SHORTLY."
IRAN.
POOMPH
YOU ARE OFF COURSE, BUT AT LEAST YOU ARE NEAR.
YOU SUMMON ME AND I AM HERE.
SLSHH!
SLSHH!
SLSHH!
YOU ASK FOR MY HELP.. AND I OBLIGE.
YOU ASK FOR MY SOUL...

"...I GIVE YOU
EVER
WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME PLEASE STEP FORWARD
SPHOOM
AM I THE ONLY ONE?
NO THERE ARE OTHERS THAT NEED TENDING TO
GOOD I WOULD HATE TO GO THROUGH THIS ALONE
YOU WON'T PLEASE
. WE HAVE LITTLE TIME

A RAINFOREST IN NEW ZEALAND.
STEP LIVELY, MATES! IT'S NOT GETTING ANY LIGHTER.
ITS TRAIL IS STILL FRESH. THAT MEANS WE'RE NOT FAR BEHIND
WE WILL CROSS THIS BRIDGE WITH YOU, MONTEY. AFTER THAT... WE WILL LEAVE YOU TO YOUR FATE.
YOU GENTS ARE AFRAID, ARE YA? WELL, DON'T FEAR-- I'VE NEVER LOST A HUNT
DON'T YOU GUYS FORGET WE ARE THE PREDATOR. THAT THING IS OUR PREY UNDERSTAND?
THIS THING IS FRIGHTENED. MORE FRIGHTENED OF US THAN WE ARE OF IT, ANYWAY
AYE! DIDN'T YA HEAR A WORD I JUS' SAID?!
NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN IT AND COME BACK TO TELL ABOUT IT. EVEN THOSE WHO'VE SPREAD THE RUMORS OF THIS CREATURE HAVE ALL PERISHED.
THEY JUST . VANISH.
SKREEEEECHH!!!
CHRIST O' LORD!

COME BACK! FACE ME, YOU COWARD!

YOU'RE A RUDE ONE AREN'T YA? GOT TO SAY THOUGH. YOU'VE GOT **BALLS**. BIG BALLS

A **WOMAN**? WHAT ARE YA **DOIN'** HERE, WOMAN? ARE YA **WACKO**?! DON'T CHA KNOW WHAT'S RUNNIN' 'ROUND THROUGH THESE PARTS?!

HMMM. DOES IT LOOK LIKE **THIS**?!!

HUH?!

YOU'RE IT YOU ARE THE CREATURE!

STOP! AAAAHGGHGHG!!

DON'T BE SO **UNHAPPY**, M'STER. AT LEAST YOU FOUND WHAT YOU'VE BEEN **LOOKING** FOR ME

MYSTACINA!

NOW YOU'LL DIE SHORTLY THANK GOD FOR THAT YOU SQUEAL LIKE A PIG

SKOOOMPH!

YOU AGAIN! I THOUGHT I **TOLD** YOU--

YOU DON'T HAVE A **CHOICE**. YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS HAVE **ALREADY** JOINED HANDS

YOU CANNOT **RESIST** THEIR **SUMMONS**. IT'S YOUR **DESTINY**, MYSTACINA OTHERWISE

YOU WILL ENDURE THEIR **WRATH**.

"WELL, SINCE YOU PUT IT THAT WAY...I'M THERE!"

CORK, IRELAND.
THE CASTLE OF DERK DRISHANE.
KOOMPH!!
'TIS TIME.
POOF
BLOODY HELL.
CAN'T A MAN BE LEFT TO DO AS HE PLEASES?!
S'IF I HAVE NUTHIN' BETTER TA DO WIT' MY SELF. I HAFTA GO GALLAVANTIN' CROSS D' WORLD SPREADIN' GRIEF!
ARRGH. AND FER WHAT?! I HAVE ALL I NEED RIGHT 'ERE.
BUT YOU NEED ME...DON'T CHA? YOU NEED ME TO DO MY PART.
FWOOOSH!
'TIS THE PRICE I HAVE TO PAY. SO BE IT.
'TIS THE PRICE OF IMMORTALITY!
KA-KA-KRAAAAAAACHH!

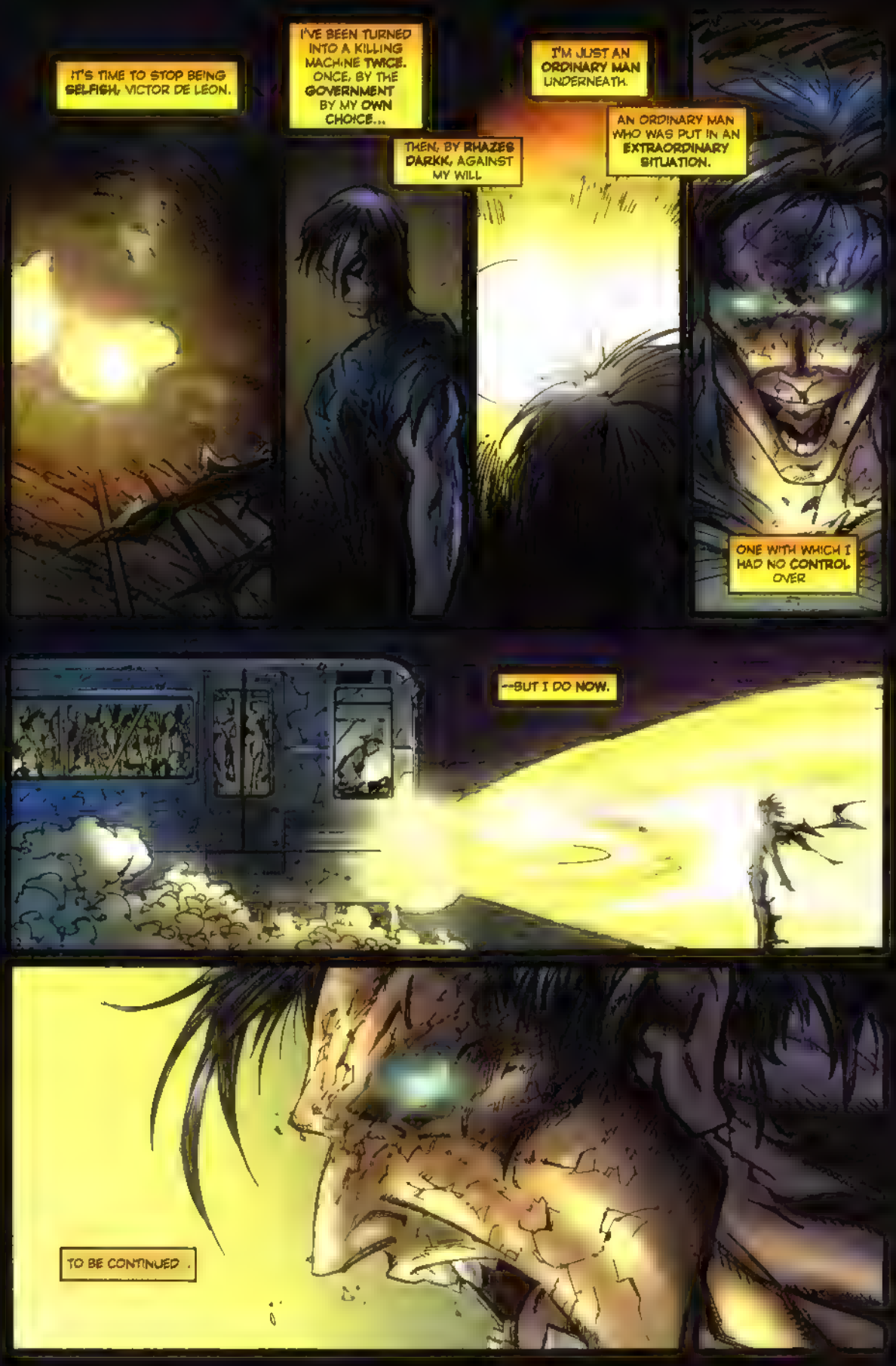
O' LORD . FORGIVE ME..
I HAVE TRIED TO LIVE MY LIFE IN YOUR IMAGE...
I JUS' COULDN'A DONE IT! I WAS BORN TOO LATE.
I NOW LIVE 'N YOUR IMAGE OF DEATH...
.. IN THE IMAGE OF
THE GRAVE!
[illegible] DR SHANE. WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE YOU AS OUR GUEST.

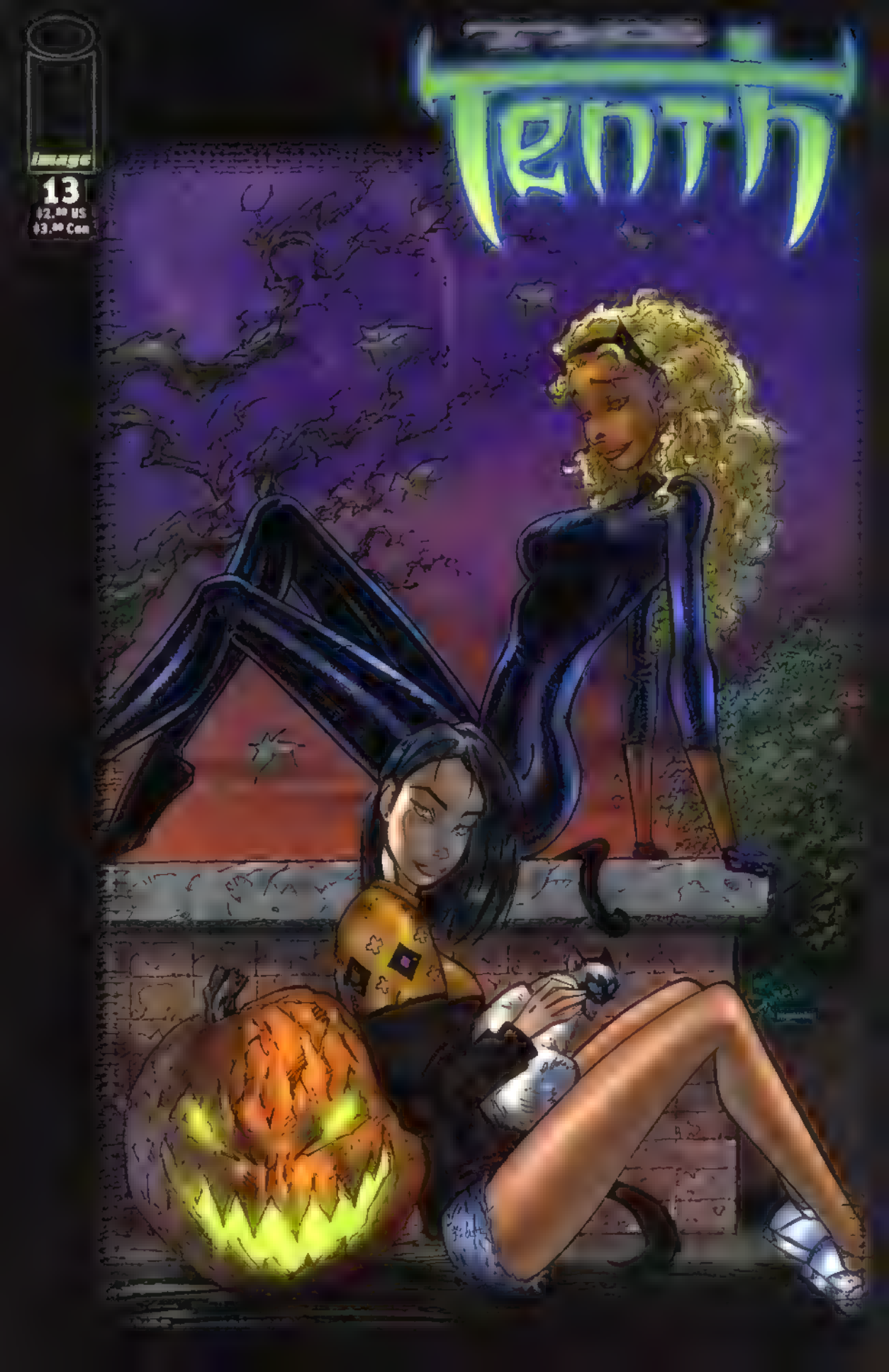
RUSH PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL.
THE EMERGENCY ROOM.
"WHAT DO YOU MEAN 'HE'S NOT HERE'!?!"
"WELL, YOU CAN LOOK FOR YOURSELF, DEAR, BUT I ALREADY TOLD YOU...HE'S NOT HERE."
HOW CAN IT BE? I SAW ONE OF YOUR AMBULANCES PICK UP SAM JAFFE FROM THE CAMPUS.
DID YOU SEE THE AMBULANCE LOAD YOUR FRIEND?
WELL. NO. THAT'S JUST IT. WE DIDN'T SEE A BODY. THEY TOLD US THAT HE WAS MURDERED.
WELL, THE PARAMEDICS WOULD STILL CHECK HIM IN HERE. .BUT THEY WOULD TAKE THE BODY TO THE COUNTY MORGUE ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE BUILDING
THE MORE WE FIND OUT, THE LESS WE SEEM TO KNOW. SOMETHING'S DEFINITELY UP.
JAFFE WAS IN SOME PRETTY DEEP STUFF. ANY NUMBER OF PEOPLE MIGHT'VE WANTED TO SEE HIM DEAD
I JUST CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THIS IS CONNECTED WITH RHAZES DARKK.
HEY, WE'RE ALREADY LIVING DANGEROUSLY, GIRL...THE WAY I SEE IT, WE'RE JUST GOING WITH THE FLOW.
OF COURSE IT IS, ESPY. BUT I WON'T BELIEVE JAFFE'S DEAD UNTIL I VIEW A BODY. I'M TALKING HARDCORE EVIDENCE!
MORE LIKE YOUR NEED TO GET GROSSED OUT. AND LET ME GUESS, WE DON'T JUST STROLL IN THERE - DO WE?
WELL, HE'S NOT HERE. WHERE DO WE LOOK?
BEFORE WE RULE OUT THE MORGUE, I'D LIKE TO PAY IT A VISIT. YOU KNOW, TO SATISFY MY CURIOSITY.

KA-BAASHHH!
OOPS. I DIDN'T MEAN TO TOTAL THE PLACE
NOT IF WE DON'T GET CAUGHT.
DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH TROUBLE WE CAN GET IN FOR THIS ZORINA?
I'M SURE THESE STIFFS WOULD RATHER BE SOMEWHERE ELSE, TOO
THIS PLACE IS COLD. I DON'T LIKE IT HERE
THIS ONE HAS JAFFE'S NAME ON IT! I'M FEELING REALLY CREEPED OUT! ESPY...COME OPEN IT FOR ME...I-I CAN'T.
THIS WAS YOUR IDEA, ZORINA—STOP PLAYING AROUND AND OPEN IT!
"OKAY. .HERE GOES..."
OH MY GOD!

SHHHH!
IT'S JUST A BODY. IT'S NOT JAFFE'S BODY.. BUT STILL JUST A BODY YOU DO KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS, RIGHT?
"DEEP SHIT?"
"BINGO."
DARK, DIRTY AND FULL OF RATS. LOOKS LIKE THERE'S A PLACE FOR ME AFTER ALL MAYBE DOWN HERE I WON'T HURT ANYBODY OR KILL ANYBODY
BUT HOW LONG WILL I LAST DOWN HERE HOW LONG CAN I FIGHT MY GROWING CRAVING FOR BLOOD.
I CAN FEEL IT GETTING STRONGER. . .
GRELL...
DRINK NG THE BLOOD OF RATS AND PIGEONS SN'T ENOUGH FOR ME IN FACT, IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S MAKING ME MORE SAVAGE THAN I ALREADY AM
I CAN'T WIN. NOT LIKE THIS. I NEED TO DO SOMETHING.. BUT WHAT? I DON'T HAVE THE RESOURCES TO TRACK DOWN DARKK.
I CAN'T GO BACK TO ESPY I'VE CAUSED ENOUGH GRIEF IN HER LIFE TO LAST HER THREE L FETIMES.

YAAAAA!!!!
IT'S HURTING AGAIN. I'M I'M STARTING TO CHANGE. S TH S HOW I AM SUPPOSED TO LIVE THE REST OF MY LIFE? A PRISONER OF DARKK'S EVIL MIND?
I WAS CREATED FOR EVIL...
CHRIST! EVEN IF I DO KILL HIM I'LL STILL BE STUCK L KE TH S MY DNA HAS BEEN ALTERED...SO I BETTER GET USED TO T .OR FIND ANOTHER WAY OUT OF TH S.
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY FOR ME TO STOP RHAZES DARKK TO END THIS MADNESS
THAT MEANS DOING THE ONE THING THAT ESPERANZA COULDN'T DO*
See issue 10 for details!- bn
AN UNFAIR POS TION I THRUST UPON HER SHE MEANT GOOD
BUT I NOW KNOW THAT THE DECISION HAS TO COME FROM ME


IT'S TIME TO STOP BEING SELFISH, VICTOR DE LEON.
I'VE BEEN TURNED INTO A KILLING MACHINE TWICE. ONCE, BY THE GOVERNMENT BY MY OWN CHOICE...
THEN, BY RHAZES DARKK, AGAINST MY WILL
I'M JUST AN ORDINARY MAN UNDERNEATH.
AN ORDINARY MAN WHO WAS PUT IN AN EXTRAORDINARY SITUATION.
ONE WITH WHICH I HAD NO CONTROL OVER
--BUT I DO NOW.
TO BE CONTINUED .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IN ISSUE 12, THE SUPERMONSTER, GOZZA FINDS HIS STOLEN ELEMENTAL POWERS BURIED INSIDE THE CHEST OF ADRENALYNN, BUT WITH NO HELP FROM THE CAPTIVE AND NEARLY DEAD DIRECTOR JAFFE. A STRANGE AND MYSTICAL FORCE IS SWEEPING OVER THE GLOBE SEEKING OUT THE REMAINING BEASTS OF RHAZES DARKK. THIS ROUND-UP OF PURE EVIL WILL SOON BE UNVEILED. A DEPRESSED & BLOOD-THIRSTY VICTOR STAGGERS THROUGH THE UNDERGROUND SUBWAY OF THE CHICAGO "EL" TO HIDE OUT FROM THE TEMPTATION OF BLOOD. VICTOR'S MIND IS CONSUMED WITH STOPPING RHAZES DARKK. BUT HOW? THE ANSWER MAY BE SUICIDAL!

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RUMBLE
STRIP
CHRIST!—
SHIT!...! IT C-CAN'T BE...I FEEL SO...
ALIVE!
WHAT'S THAT? ANOTHER TRAIN?!

MAYBE IT'S DEATH . COMING TO GET ME
MAYBE THIS IS THE END.
VICTOR! I AM SHOCKED! YOU WERE DOING SO WELL YOU WERE FINALLY HEADING DOWN THE CHOSEN PATH
GULLIVER! PLEASE LEAVE ME THIS IS THE ONLY WAY OUT
TSK TSK I'M AFRAID THERE IS NO WAY OUT
YOUR BLOOD CELLS REGENERATE AT A HIGH RATE OF SPEED, MAKING IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO KILL YOURSELF
YOU CAN'T DIE, VICTOR YOU'LL ONLY REINFORCE YOUR POWER AND STRENGTH
I SUPPOSE THERE ARE WAYS BUT NONE THAT YOU'VE EVER HEARD OF
YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, VICTOR LOOK AT ME
GOZZA SHOWED ME THE WAY HE CORRECTED MY WRONGS. NOW I WILL SHOW YOU THE WAY
YOU WILL COME WITH ME NOW TIME IS PRECIOUS

HALLOWEEN USED TO BE MY FAVORITE HOLIDAY WHEN I WAS A KID EVEN MORE SO THAN CHRISTMAS DRESSING UP LIKE WITCHES AND FAIRIES AND PRINCESSES IT WAS JUST SO WONDERFUL.
IT WAS ALSO A CHANCE FOR ME TO GET AWAY FROM BEING ESPY, "FREAK-GIRL"
BUT NOT TONIGHT

REEAAAOOOWW!
RROWW!
ZOR NA! LOOK OUT! YOU'RE KNOCK NG OVER THE JACK-O-LANTERN!
OOPS SORRY, ESPY I WAS ONLY PLAYIN' AROUND
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. HALLOWEEN IS JUST ABOUT OVER, ANYHOW.
OVER? MAYBE FOR THE KIDDIES, BUT NOT FOR US, SUPER- ADVENTUROUS FRIENDS hee-hee!
OKAY, LAY IT ON ME WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO TALK ME NTO THIS TIME?
I'M GOING TO TALK YOU NTO HAVING THE N GHT OF YOUR LIFE TRUST ME ON TH S ONE ESPY IT'S THE COOLEST HALLOWEEN BASH OF THE YEAR
WHAT'S SO "COOL" ABOUT IT?
IT'S AT A REALLY COOL PARTY, DOWNTOWN WE'LL BOTH BE WEARING COSTUMES, SO NO ! D 'S AND BEST OF ALL, NO FRAT BOYS!
PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE COME WITH ME!
BEATS SITTING AROUND HERE RIGHT?

"THIS IS MY SANCTUARY, DE LEON. THE PLACE WITHIN MY PORTAL WHERE I REST AND MEDITATE. A PLACE OF GREAT INNER PEACE AND HEALING."
IT IS A PLACE OF HEALING FOR YOU, TOO, VICTOR
YEAH, WELL-- IT WREAKS OF EVIL AND DESPAIR.
THIS MAY BE YOUR "HIDEOUT," BUT I WON'T LET YOU KEEP ME HERE!
"EVEN IF YOU DON'T WANT IT TO BE."
WHA--WHAT'S GOING ON?! MY LIMBS
YOU'RE MAKING THEM ATTACK ME?!
NO! THEY ARE SEEKING YOUR RE-ACQUAINTANCE

"THEY ARE MENDING THE BOND THAT YOU HAVE BROKEN..."

AAAHHHHGGH!

"...THE MOST SACRED OF ALL BONDS..."

"THE BOND BETWEEN BODY AND MIND!

"YOU MUSTN'T BETRAY YOURSELF, DE LEON...

"KNOW WHO YOU ARE...

"...AND WHO YOU ARE MEANT TO BE!"

YOU HARNESS THE POWER OF NEW LIFE, VICTOR! DO NOT DENY YOURSELF THE CHANCE TO FULFILL YOUR PROPHECY!

COME

"EMBRACE YOUR DESTINY!

"YOU ARE NOT ALONE

"THERE ARE NINE OTHERS LIKE YOU.

"ALL OF YOU POSSESS DIFFERENT QUALITIES AND STRENGTHS.

"ALL OF YOU ARE HERE FOR THE SAME NOBLE MISSION.

"AND FOR THAT MISSION TO SUCCEED...YOU ALL MUST UNITE AS...

"...ONE!"

THERE IS NOTHING NOBLE ABOUT DESTROYING THE HUMAN RACE, GULLIVER
YOU HAVE BEEN MISGUIDED RHAZES DARKK NEVER PLANNED TO DESTROY HE MERELY SOUGHT TO ENHANCE.
"I WAS BLIND LIKE YOU...ONCE GOZZA HAS HELPED ME UNDERSTAND THE MIRACLES THAT CAN BE ACHIEVED.
"MIRACLES THAT ARE 900 YEARS IN THE MAKING.
"BEGINNING WITH A JOURNEY INTO THE FAR REACHES OF THE UNIVERSE TO SAVE A DYING PLANET'S RACE
"IT WAS A MISSION THAT HAD ITS MORAL DILEMMAS, BUT I ASSURE YOU...IT'S NOTHING THAT YOU WOULDN'T DO FOR HUMANKIND IF PUT IN THE SAME SITUATION.
"IN 1970, THE SHIP CARRYING THE GENETIC MAKE-UP OF LIFE ON MY PLANET CRASHED INTO NEVADA. RHAZES DARKK AND A YOUNG STOW-AWAY, BAHAREH, SURVIVED THE WRECKAGE."

"THE TEN CREWMEMBERS WHO PERISHED IN THE CRASH WERE MORE THAN SHIPMATES.
"THEY WERE ESSENTIAL FOR THE SURVIVAL OF OUR PLANET
"ALL HOPE WAS LOST FOR RHAZES DARK'K AND HIS MISSION.
"I MADE SURE OF THAT
"I WANTED NO PART IN A HOSTILE TAKEOVER THE RAPING OF A WHOLE PLANET, SO THAT MY SPECIES MAY CONTINUE TO EXIST, WAS BEYOND MY BELIEFS.
"RHAZES THOUGHT I DIED WITH THE TEN OTHERS. I THOUGHT THAT WE WOULD BOTH BE DEAD SOON AFTER
"BUT RHAZES PRESSED ON. HIS WILL WAS STRONGER THAN HIS BODY.
"HE SOON WAS AT THE FOOT OF DEATH
"THAT'S WHEN FATE WOULD INTERVENE. AND THAT'S WHEN THE IMPOSSIBLE SUDDENLY BECAME POSSIBLE AGAIN-WITH THE HELP OF YOUR GOVERNMENT"

"THEY FOUND WAYS TO USE HIS KNOWLEDGE. HIS CURES FOR CANCER AND AIDS WERE REMARKABLE, BUT NOT WHAT THEY WERE LOOKING FOR.
"HIS KNOWLEDGE OF DNA STRUCTURE AND GENETIC CODES SURPASSED ANY HUMAN CAPABILITIES.
"SAMPLES TAKEN FROM THE SHIPWRECK WERE EXPERIMENTED ON COUNTLESS TIMES BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. BUT THEY COULDN'T MAKE HEADS OR TAILS OF ANY OF IT
"RHAZES WAS UNWILLING TO HELP WITHOUT THE PROPER...RESOURCES.
"THEY NEEDED HIM TO TAP INTO THE ALIEN BIOLOGY THAT HE BROUGHT TO EARTH IN THE FIERY CRASH...
"...THE DNA FROM THE TEN CORPSES
"AROUND THE SAME TIME, RHAZES WAS RECEIVING ADULATION FROM SCIENTISTS ALL OVER THE WORLD.
THOUGH HIS MOST IMPORTANT CURES WERE KEPT SECRET, THE GOVERNMENT TRICKLED OUT JUST ENOUGH OF HIS PROGRESS TO GIVE SICK PEOPLE HOPE
"UNDER GOVERNMENT SUPERVISION, HE WOULD BE ALLOWED TO RECREATE LIFEFORMS FROM HIS HOME PLANET UNDER LIMITED GUIDELINES.
"THUS, THE SPRINGDALE PROJECT* WAS BORN.
*refer to the mini series.-bh
"RHAZES IS A VERY EXCEPTIONAL INDIVIDUAL. HE FINALLY FOUND A WAY TO SEE HIS MISSION REALIZED.
"THIS...WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE END
"HE WAS GOING TO MAKE SURE THAT THIS TIME THERE WOULD BE NO MISTAKES...

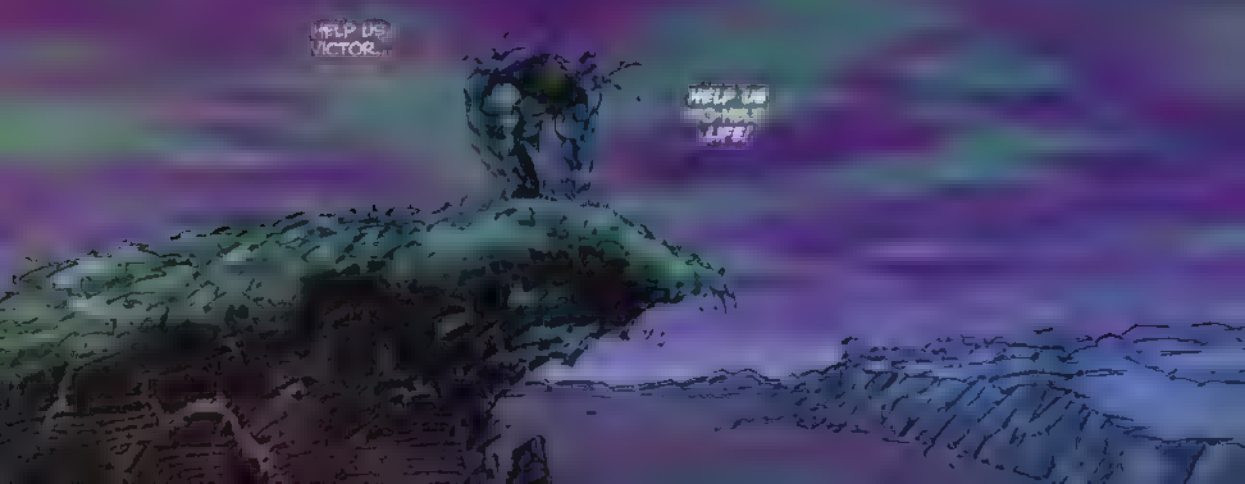
"...AND NO CRASH LANDINGS."
ARGHH!
THOOMMM!
"IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS AT STAKE..."

"I HAVE SUPPLIED A TOUR GUIDE-
"-OR TWO.
"BY THE END OF TODAY..YOU'LL SEE THINGS IN A WHOLE NEW LIGHT!"
JERRY, THIS HERE -BEEP!- IS GOIN' AROUND -BEEEP! NG MY BEST FR END!
AT FIRST, HE WAS JUST ACKIN' LIKE HE WAS A TRANSSEXUAL... BUT NOW NOW HE IS A -BLEEP!-BLEEEEP!'N HE-SHE!
-BLEEEEEEP!-
WELL I -BLEEP!-BLEEEP-BLEEEEP!-
AND WHAT'S WORSE HE'S MY PA!
ARE YOU TELLING US THAT YOUR FATHER IS A TRANSSEXUAL AND THAT HE'S SLEEPING WITH YOUR BEST FR END?
-BLEEEP! -
YOU 'AIN'T NO-BLEEP-BLEEP'N MAN!
TALK TO DA HAND!
BLEEP!
-BLEEEEP!

ZIPP!!
HEY!
ZORINA! I WAS WATCHING THAT!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE TOO GOOD FOR "TRAILER-PARK TV"
NO WAY! THAT'S WHAT I WORE LAST YEAR! YOU JUST NEED TO LOSE THAT CAPE AND YOU'LL BE FINE BESIDES- I'M IN A "CATTY" MOOD NOW STOP YOUR STALLING- OR WE'LL MISS ALL THE FUN
OKAY BUT I'M KEEPING MY CAPE ON!
THIS OUTFIT IS A LITTLE TIGHT, Z I DON'T THINK I FEEL COMFORTABLE DRESSED LIKE THIS. CAN'T WE SWITCH OUTFITS?
OR ARE YOU FEELING DEVILISH TONIGHT?
DING-DONG!
"TRICK OR TREATERS- STILL?!"

"WHO THE HECK IS IT?"
"SSSSHHH, ESPY! IT'S A MAN."
CREEEK
UH NO MORE CANDY SORRY!
ZORINA! I NEED TO TALK TO YOU...
FIRSTLY, MY NAME ISN'T ZORINA. SHE DOESN'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE 'SIDES. SHE'S NOT INTERESTED IN ANY MAN THAT HAS TO HIDE H S FACE! YOU CAN TAKE THAT TO THE BANK
GOOD N!-- OOOOH!
BOOOMM!
ZOR NA. I'M SORRY TO FRIGHTEN YOU LIKE THIS RATHER IT IS I
OH MY GOD!
SAM JAFFE!

THERE IS A BEGINNING AND AN END TO EVERYTHING, DE LEON.
LIFE, TOO, HAS A BEGINNING AND AN END
WHEN ONE FORM OF LIFE CEASES TO EXIST... ANOTHER MUST TAKE ITS PLACE
THESE BECOME THE SUPERIOR LIFE FORMS THAT DEFY THE ODDS AND ADAPT. THOSE WHO REFUSE TO BECOME EXTINCT FIND WAYS TO THRIVE.
THE EARTH IS DYING, DE LEON. IT IS VIRTUALLY A ROTATING SKELETON OF ITS FORMER AND ONCE BEAUTIFUL SELF.
WITH YOUR HELP, WE CAN MAKE IT BEAUTIFUL AND PURE ONCE AGAIN.
THOSE AROUND YOU HAVE MADE YOU FEEL THAT WE ARE HERE ONLY TO DESTROY YOUR PLANET.
NOW YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF...WE ARE ONLY HERE TO HELP RESTORE IT...


HELP US VICTOR...
HELP US SAVE LIFE!

LIFE CAN BE SO BEAUTIFUL

"HOPE YOU DON'T MIND. I HAVEN'T EATEN IN 48 HOURS."
JIM HELP YOURSELF
GOZZA IS IN CONTROL OF ALL HIS POWERS--THE POWERS TO CONTROL THE CLIMATE, WATER AND PRACTICALLY EVERYTHING ELSE THAT IS VITAL TO LIFE. HE HOLDS ALL THIS IN THE PALM OF HIS HANDS.
HE HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO PERSUADE SOME OF THE REMAINING TEN DARKK BEASTS TO JOIN HIS SIDE AGAINST RHAZES
BUT IF HE WANTS RHAZES DARKK DEAD, WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
GOZZA IS STILL SEEKING TO LEAD THE WORLD INTO OBLIVION. HE MERELY WANTS TO TAKE DARKK'S PLACE. THERE'S SUCH A POWER STRUGGLE GOING ON, I CAN'T BEGIN TO TELL YOU THE DEPTH OF WHAT'S HAPPENING
ANY WORD FROM VICTOR?
NO. HE'S GONE. I CAN'T SHAKE THIS FEELING OF DOOM I'VE BEEN HAVING SINCE HE LEFT, EITHER. I'M AFRAID, JAFFE...I'M AFRAID FOR US ALL
WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED THE OTHER NIGHT, SAM?
AFTER GOZZA FOUND THE TALAS, WAS PAID A VISIT
BY WHO?
WE WERE WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU, JAFFE. WE THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD.
I DON'T KNOW.

"BUT I KNOW THAT HE WAS NOT A GOOD MAN.
"HE'S BACK IN JAPAN BY NOW.
"WE MADE A DEAL...
"...OR MORE LIKE A BARGAIN.
"THAT'S WHAT YOU'D CALL IT, RIGHT...
"...WHEN YOU'RE PLEADING FOR YOUR LIFE?"
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, MY LITTLE RUSSIAN PRINCESS.

NO PROBLEMO. FUJI. WHEN WILL I BE BRIEFED FOR MY FIRST MISSION?
SOON... SOON
HAHAHAHAHAHA
TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT MONTH!

image
14
TONY DANIEL

image
14
JAN
$2.50
CANADA
TEETH

THE TENTH 14

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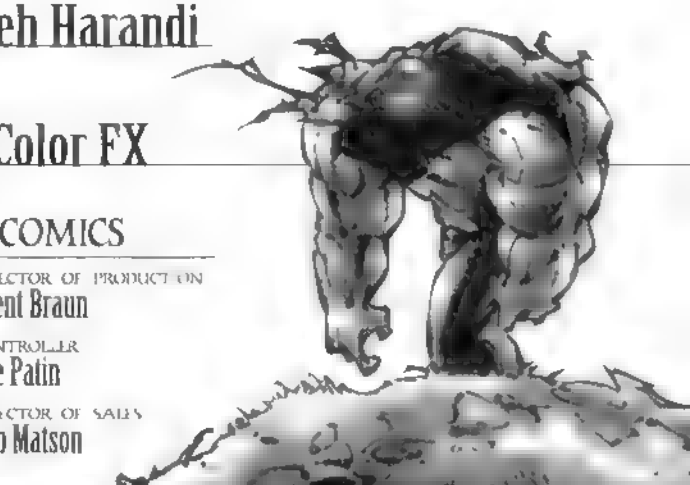

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YOU HAVE MY ATTENTION...
...NOW... WHAT DO YOU WANT...?

YOU KNOW WHAT WE WANT, DARKK...

...WE WANT YOU TO RELEASE THE POWERS THAT HAVE HELD US AT YOUR BECK AND CALL.

WE HAVE OUR OWN AGENDAS NOW, RHAZES. THEY DON'T INCLUDE YOU, HONEY.

THE OTHERS DON'T SURPRISE ME WITH THEIR TREACHERY... BUT YOU, EVE! YOU WERE LIKE MY DAUGHTER!

SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, DADDY!. .BUT IT WASN'T YOU I WAS LOYAL TO...

...IT WAS THE POWER!

"WE WANT TO USE IT AS WE SEE FIT.

"RELEASE YOUR POWERS TO US, RHAZES...

"...AND WE'LL SPARE YOU."

NOOOO!

CAWW, SORRY, MASTER...

THERE AIN'T GONNA BE ANYMORE PLEADING WITH YOU, DARKK!
I HAVE TO GET NASTY, NOW!
YAAAAA!
CRACKK!
KGRACK
GOZZA — NO, YOU FOOL! YER BORN'A KILL 'IM!
"FREEZE -- YOU SENILE PILE OF BIRD POOP!"
I DON'T CARE!
KRACKKAKK
YER OVER THE EDGE, LAD -- WE NEED 'IM ALIVE!
THE GRAVE IS RIGHT, GOZZA.
BAHAREH!

IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU ALL STICK TOGETHER. YOU ARE MUCH MORE A THREAT TO HIM IF YOU ARE ALL ACTING AS ONE.
PLEASE THAW HIM, GOZZA...
GROAN
WE CAN FORGET ABOUT HIM OFFERING US HIS POWER. WE'LL HAVE TO BE MORE PERSUASIVE, I GUESS.
NONE OF YOU ARE WORTHY OF THE DARKKEIL LEGACY.. ..I ...AM... ASHAMED.
YOU POOR, SELF-ABSORBED FOOL. YOU ARE RIGHT... THEY ARE NOT WORTHY...
" .BUT THEN AGAIN...IT WAS NOT THEIR CHOICE TO CARRY ON OUR LEGACY "
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS.
I AM AFRAID FOR THE SAFETY OF MY MISSION AT UPROAR, GIRLS
I FEAR THOSE SNEAKY BASTARDS AT CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE HAVE THEIR CLAWS IN THE TENTH ALREADY.
CHILL OUT, JAFFE...VICTOR'S PROBABLY ON RHAZES DARKK'S TRAIL AS WE SPEAK

YOU'RE BOTH WRONG.
I USED TO BE ABLE TO FEEL WHEN THE TENTH WAS THERE I MEAN MENTALLY -- I JUST KNEW IF HE WAS OKAY... OR NOT.
NOW I CAN'T FEEL ANYTHING. IT'S AS IF HE JUST CEASED TO EXIST.
HE'S DEAD, YOU KNOW
AND I'M THE ONE TO BLAME. I SHOULD BE THE ONE WHO'S DEAD.
STOP IT, ESPY!
SPLASSH
I MAY NOT HAVE THE MENTAL CONNECTION THAT YOU TWO SHARED, BUT I CAN FEEL HIM. I JUST KNOW DEEP DOWN...HE'S OKAY.
THANKS, Z

YAAAA!
WHOOMPH!
LOOK OUT!
OH, MY GOD... I KNOW THAT STENCH!
IT'S GULLIVER!
NOW'S YOUR CHANCE FOR SOME PAYBACK, SAM!
ZORINIA, NO..
OH, MY GOD! I WAS JUST KIDDING! I JINXED HIM!
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS FACE?
I'LL SEE TO IT THAT THIS BACK-STABBING DUNGPILE DOESN'T SUFFER LONG!
UHGGN...
BLUBBLUBBLUB
"...HE'S DYING!"

S-SAM...I HAD... NO CHOICE...! IT WAS GOZZA WHO MADE ME*. HE -- HE...CHANGED ME... IT'S T-TOO LATE NOW YOU MUST STOP HIM. .
...HE HAS CONTROL OF THE TENTH!
*See issue 124 where Jaffe learns that Gulliver informed Gozza of the Rudden tales (Ed.)
WHAT?!
WELL, AT LEAST WE KNOW HE'S ALIVE?! -- Uh, RIGHT?
NEW YORK.
"HE'S NOT DEAD, IS HE?"
HELL NO!
HE'S NOT DONE THAWING IS ALL!
WHY?! -:UNGH:- WHY HAVE YOU ALL BETRAYED YOUR MAKER?!
WHUMP

YOU BROUGHT THIS ON YOURSELF, RHAZES. YOU SEE, WE LIKE THINGS THE WAY THEY ARE. WE ARE IN NO RUSH TO RULE A WORLD OF ZOMBIES...
IN OTHER WORDS.. WE'RE HAVING TOO MUCH FUN...AND YOU'RE TRYING TO SPOIL OUR PARTY.
YOUR MISSION IS A NOBLE ONE, RHAZES AND I FULLY INTEND TO COMPLETE WHAT YOU STARTED
HOWEVER, THE TIME ISN'T RIGHT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF OUR PEOPLE. THE LUXURY THAT YOU LACK, AND WHICH WE HAVE, IS THAT OF TIME.
YOU NEARLY RUINED EVERYTHING WITH THE SPRIGDALE PROJECT *
I WILL SEE TO IT THAT NO MORE MISTAKES ARE MADE.
*See the Abuse of Humanity mini-series (bm)
'TIS A CRUMMY WASTE OF MY TIME, LADS. LET'S GET ON WIT' IT, SHALL WE?
I DID'NA ASK FOR THIS, MR RHAZES... NONE OF US DID.
YE TURNED US ALL IN TA YER RIGHTEOUS BEASTS...
...YOU'VE BIT OFF MORE THAN YE CAN CHEW, AYE?

* Page 10 (corrected) from The Tenth #14. Note the lettering boxes at the bottom panels.

'TIS TRUE-- WE'RE CREATED FROM THE SAME BLOOD OF YER *TEN* LOST SHIP MATES, RHAZES.
...AND WE OWE YE. BUT NOT OUR LIVES, NOBLE ONE
YOU *OWE* ME EVERYTHING! YOU WERE MADE TO *SERVE* ME!
"THE TEN OF YOU COULD SYNCHRONIZE YOUR POWER TO MAKE ONE OVERWHELMING BLANKET OF ENERGY.
"...ENERGY WHICH WILL CONSUMMATE MY MISSION
"THE DIMENSION-MOLDING *MYSTANICA* FROM NEW ZEALAND.
"THE LIVING VORTEX, *BLACKSPELL*.
"THE TANTALIZING BUT VENOMOUS *EVE*, *FROM PERSIA*.
"THE BELEAGUERING *KILLKROW*.
"THE TERROR FROM IRELAND, THE *GRAVE*, ALSO KNOWN AS *LORD DIRK DRISHANE*.
"THE ELUSIVE GERMAN PRINCESS OF DARKNESS, *STRYCH-9*.
"INTERNATIONAL KICKBOXING CHAMPION FROM SWEDEN, *ELIXIR*.
"*RAMSAR*, THE HIGHLANDER -- FROM PAPUA, NEW GUINEA.
"JAPANESE CHILD OF INNOVATION, *GOZZA*.
"AND LASTLY, MY FINAL BEAST.. *DECIMATOR*.

YOU NEED MY GUIDANCE! YOU WON'T SUCCEED IN WORLD DOMINATION WITHOUT ME!
WE ONLY WANT TO DO WHAT'S IN OUR BEST INTEREST. YOUR MISSION OF SURVIVAL WOULD EVENTUALLY MEAN THE END OF US.
AND WE'RE NOT READY TO GO JUST YET.
WE HAVE A BETTER WAY!
A BETTER WAY...?
YOUR WORLD WOULD BE INHABITED BY A NEW RACE OF BEINGS. ONLY... THEY WOULDN'T BECOME INTELLIGENT BEINGS FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS!
YOU CALL THAT FUN?
WE PLAN TO KEEP FAITHFUL TO THE ULTIMATE GOAL YOU SET OUT FOR...
"...IT JUST NEEDS A LITTLE FINE TUNING."
WHA--

BAA
KRAASHH
RAAAAA!
SAY HELLO TO THE FUTURE --
"-- AND GOODBYE TO THE PAST!"
"I'VE COME BACK, MASTER DARKK.
"AND I BRING GOOD NEWS!"
SLOSH

TSK! SHOW-OFF
I PLEDGE MY ALLEGIANCE TO YOUR PROPHECY!
I WILL RELEASE YOU FROM THE GREAT TORMENT THAT YOU HAVE INFLICTED UPON YOURSELF
THAT WHICH HAS LASTED NINE HUNDRED YEARS!
'RELEASE IT, DARKK--
AAAIIEEE!
'-- RELEASE ALL THAT YOU HAVE KEPT CONTAINED!'

IDIOT! DO YOU THINK THAT I WILL NOT START OVER?

THAT I DO NOT HAVE THE CAPABILITIES TO SNUFF YOU ALL OUT?

SINCE YOU HAVE FINALLY GRACED ME WITH YOUR PRESENCE, DECIMATOR...I WILL GIVE YOU WHAT YOU WANT...

...I WILL INFLICT UPON YOU ALL THAT YOU'VE BEEN BEGGING ME FOR --

EACH OF YOU ARE MERELY PROTOTYPES. I HAVE LEARNED WELL FROM THE MISTAKES I HAVE MADE WITH EACH OF YOU.

THERE WILL BE OTHERS.. OTHERS THAT WILL SERVE ME LOYALLY AND HONORABLY

BUT FIRST, I WILL DESTROY EACH OF YOU... SAMPLES OF YOUR BLOOD WILL NOT BE IN SHORT SUPPLY --

-- THEN I WILL REBUILD.

*-- DON'T BOTHER BRACING YOURSELVES...

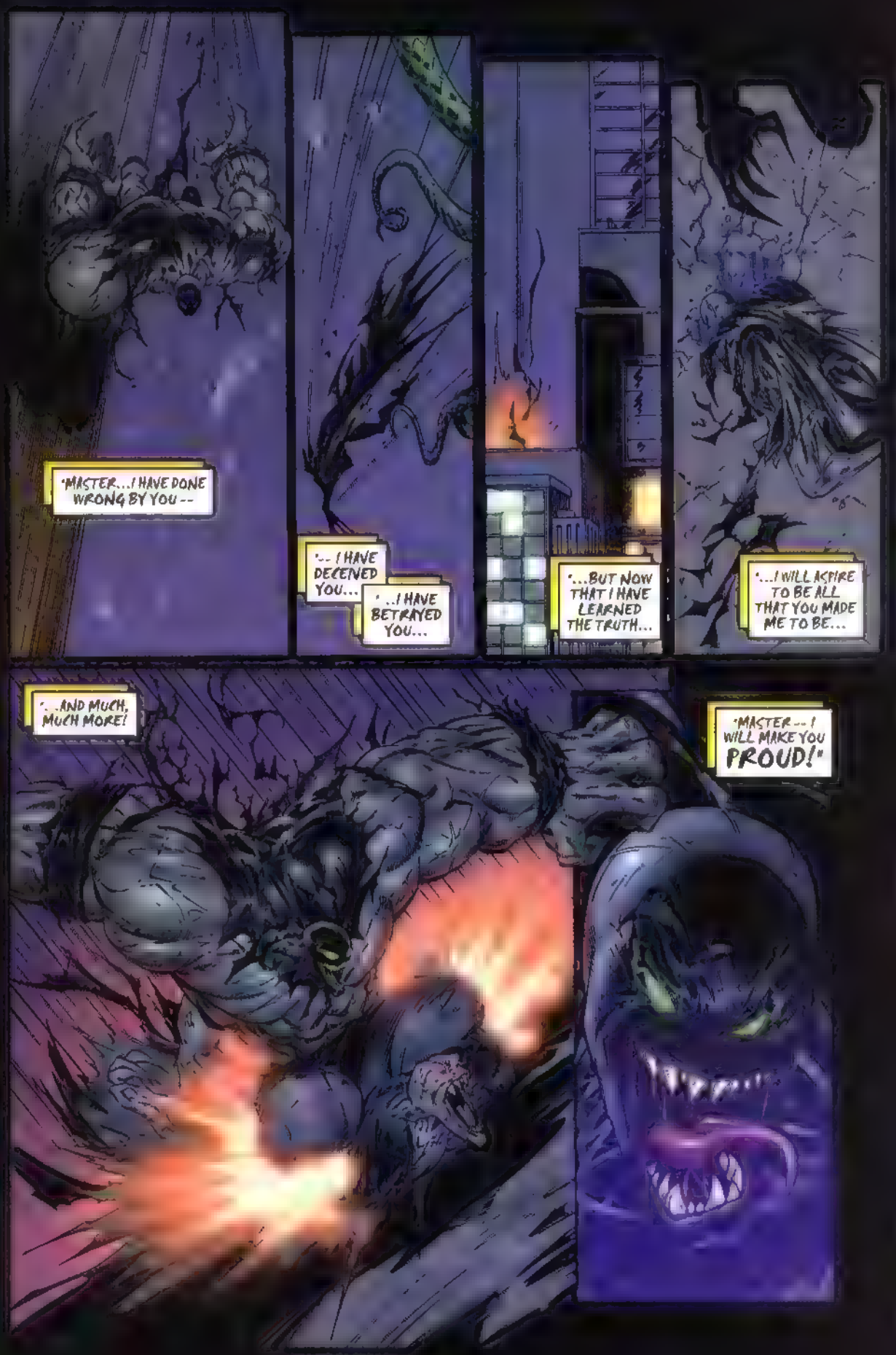
CAWW--?

...IT WON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE

FLESHHZZT

TRY REBUILDING THIS!
CAWW!
CAWW!
CAWW!
CAWW!
"DIE, MASTER! DIE A PRETTY DEATH!"
CAWW!
CAWW!
CAWW!
IT APPEARS AS THOUGH YOU'VE DEVELOPED A SPINE, KILLKROW! YOU WERE MY BIGGEST FAILURE!
SQULISHH
SQUISHH
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE OPENED UP A CAN OF WORMS...

"OR SHALL I SAY SNAKES!"
CRRASH


"MASTER...I HAVE DONE WRONG BY YOU --
"-- I HAVE DECEIVED YOU...
"...I HAVE BETRAYED YOU...
"...BUT NOW THAT I HAVE LEARNED THE TRUTH...
"...I WILL ASPIRE TO BE ALL THAT YOU MADE ME TO BE...
"...AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!
"MASTER -- I WILL MAKE YOU PROUD!"

KRRR
I CAME TO SET YOU FREE, MASTER... YOU'VE BEEN ENSLAVED TO YOUR MISSION FOR TOO LONG.
I ASSURE YOU... YOUR WILL SHALL NOT BE FORGOTTEN.
BUT NOW... NOW I MUST SEE TO MY DARK BROTHERS AND SISTERS.
WE WILL DEVISE OUR OWN ORDER AND SET FORTH YOUR AGENDA ON OUR TERMS.
I KNEW THAT YOU WOULD EVENTUALLY FIND YOUR WAY BACK TO ME, DE LEON.
NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU FOUGHT TEMPTATION...
...YOU WILL NEVER ESCAPE THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH YOU WERE CREATED...
"...REBIRTH!"
SKWCK
SKWCK
MY INFINITELY LOYAL BLACKSPELL!
BRAAABOOM

I'M AFRAID I WILL DISAPPOINT YOU TODAY, MASTER DARKK...
...A DEAL WAS MADE THAT JUST COULDN'T BE PASSED...
...A FINAL CHANCE TO RECLAIM THE POWERS THAT WERE STOLEN FROM ME...
...FAREWELL...
DON'T DESPAIR... OUR PATHS WILL CROSS IN TIME, CHILDREN...
HAHAHA!
THE ONLY PATH YOU'LL BE CROSSING WITH ME IS THE ONE THAT LEADS YOU THROUGH MY SMALL INTESTINE AND OUT MY ASS!
SCHLOMP
BURP
EWW! IS IT SAFE TO SAY THAT THE REST OF HIS BODY WILL SOON FOLLOW THE SAME AFORE-MENTIONED -- --AHEM PATH?
PICK HIS BONES AND GET ON WITH IT, DE LEON.
WE HAVE VERY IMPORTANT THINGS TO DISCUSS.

HELP! >GRG< HELLP ME PLEASE!
SPLASH
SPLISH
SPLASH
"HELPP! SOMEBODY!"
"HANG ON! I'M COMING!
SHWOOSH
"WHERE IS SHE?
SHHSHH
"THAT'S GOTTA BE HER!"

"I CAN HEAR YOU! I'M COMING!"
I'M DOWN HERE!
YOU'RE NOT SAFE DOWN HERE...
...YOU MUST GO BACK... GO BACK NOW.
VICTOR IS THE ONE YOU OUGHT TO BE SAVING...
...HE NEEDS YOUR HELP... BUT YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
HE'S ALREADY EMBRACED THE DARKNESS... WE'RE HIS ONLY HOPE NOW.
"Oh MY GOD -- YOU! YOU'RE ME... AS A CHILD!"
PLEASE, SAVE VICTOR...
AAIEEE!
"IT -- IT WAS JUST A DREAM...?
"...NO! IT WAS MORE THAN JUST A DREAM...
"...VICTOR HAS SUCCUMBED TO EVIL...
"...AND ONLY I CAN BRING HIM BACK..."
COMING IN FEBRUARY:
THE BLACK EMBRACE